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**SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

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| I. CHINA DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |
| II. EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |
| III. SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |
| IV. EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT | Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged |
| V. NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT | Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Middle East & South Asia ReviewInter-Arab AffairsIslamic AffairsPalestinian AffairsOPEC AffairsSouth Asian Regional AffairsArab Africa<ul style="list-style-type: none">AlgeriaChadEgyptLibyaMauritaniaMoroccoSudanTunisiaWestern SaharaArabian Peninsula<ul style="list-style-type: none">BahrainKuwaitOmanPDRYQatarSaudi ArabiaUnited Arab EmiratesYemen Arab RepublicIraqIsraelJordanLebanonSyriaSouth Asia<ul style="list-style-type: none">AfghanistanBangladeshIndiaIranMaldivesNepal & BhutanPakistanSri Lanka |
| VI. LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |

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FBIS

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LD181508 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1335 GMT 18 May 87

During the meeting, the principled approach of the Soviet Union and of the other socialist countries was again expounded, to the effect that only by way of substantial mutual reductions can the level of military confrontation on the continent be lowered, and stability at lower levels facilitated. The representatives of the Warsaw Pact countries pointed to the unacceptability of an approach that would be based on the "presumption of the military superiority" of the socialist countries, and would envisage the "evening out" of the correlation of armed forces without their reduction.

It was once again stressed that at future talks, the problem of tactical nuclear weapons as an important component in the potential of a sudden attack should be considered precisely in the context of reducing the armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe.

The representatives of the socialist countries again stressed that matters of European disarmament are an integral part of the overall European process. They repeated their call to the countries of NATO to intensify consultations with the aim of moving on as soon as possible to the elaboration of a mandate for future talks, and to utilize various forms toward this, including the creation of editorial working groups.

LD181938 Moscow TASS in English 1924 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 18 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev:

NATO countries assiduously demonstrate the "lack of unity" about the Soviet proposals for the elimination of medium-range and shorter-range missiles from Europe and are clearly in no hurry to give an intelligible answer to these proposals. On the other hand, the United States allies in Europe with surprising promptness reach accord on the need for nuclear arming of the North Atlantic alliance under the pretext of "compensation" for a possible elimination of U.S. nuclear missiles from Europe.

One gets the impression that the stream of contradictory "amendments" to the Soviet plan now coming from capitals of the European NATO countries is aimed at finding loopholes which could first complicate the process of reaching agreement on medium-range and shorter-range missiles and later, possibly, bury the prospects of reduction of nuclear arms in Europe.

FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl has of late been manifesting special zeal in placing obstacles in the road of a Soviet-U.S. agreement on nuclear missiles in Europe. The head of the West German Government all of a sudden came out with a "radical" proposal to take into account at the talks in Geneva nuclear weapons of any range from zero to 1,000 kilometres. And then the West German leader suggested taking into account at the talks on medium-range missiles both chemical weapons and conventional forces in Europe.

Making conjectures about the reasons that prompted the FRG chancellor to come out with his "initiative", most Western observers arrive at the conclusion that it will complicate the talks in Geneva and will throw into turmoil the process of reaching agreement. The conservative Danish newspaper "BERLINGSKE TIDENDE," commenting on Kohl's statement, points out: "He who acts on the 'all or nothing' principle does not get and, probably, does not want to get anything."

It is characteristic that the proposal advanced in Bonn for involving weapons with a range less than 500 kilometres in the talks met with approval of precisely those circles which insist on the need to "prevent turning Europe into a nuclear-free zone." For instance, leader of the Christian Social Union Franz-Josef Strauss is the one who declares most zealously in support of that initiative in the FRG. He cited truly fantastic figures about the ratio of short-range missiles of the USSR and NATO.

An analogy suggests itself between the recent statement of the Pentagon's chief Casper Weinberger at a session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group in Stavanger on the revision of the Soviet-U.S. arrangements reached in Reykjavik and Kohl's proposals on short-range missiles. On the face of it, both proposals were about "expanding" measures for nuclear arms limitation and reduction. Both political figures hold similar, and far from constructive, stands on questions of relations with socialist countries. Weinberger's attitude to the very idea of disarmament is well-known and needs no comment. As to Kohl, Federal Secretary of the SPD [Socialist Democratic Party] Anke Fuchs recently noted that deep down in his heart he is a proponent of the cold war, who rejects the double zero option on nuclear missiles.

It is quite probable that Washington, deciding to cripple the prospects for reaching agreement on nuclear missiles in Europe, chose this time, too, for the implementation of this task the most "loyal Atlanticist" in European NATO countries.

U.S., NATO PLAN TO 'CIRCUMVENT' AGREEMENT

LD171838 Moscow TASS in English 1756 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] London May 17 TASS — The United States and NATO are making secret plans which, in their opinion, may help them circumvent an agreement with the Soviet Union on the abolition of medium-range missiles in Europe and build up nuclear arsenals on that continent even further.

The British newspaper NEWS ON SUNDAY reported that the NATO command in cooperation with the Pentagon had devised a secret plan to cheat the Soviet Union.

According to the paper, it is planned not to destroy the medium-range nuclear systems deployed in Britain, but only to take them off the back of lorries from which they are launched and load on to planes and submarines.

Moreover, NATO General intend to reclassify these missiles as "strategic". [sentence as received] As a result, they will not be covered by the proposed treaty with Soviet Union.

In the words of the newspaper, the plan would mean removing all 96 cruise missiles based at the Greenham Common base in Berkshire and abandoning plans for a further 64 such missiles at the Molesworth facility in Cambridgeshire.

But at least 230 cruise missiles would be fitted to U.S. bombers at the U.S. Air Force base in Fairford, Gloucester, and another 108 would be fitted to submarines based at Holy Loch in Scotland.

As a result the number of cruise missiles in Britain may treble if that program is carried through, the newspaper said.

NATO SHOWS 'DUPLICITY' TOWARD SOVIET PROPOSALS

OW160919 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0315 GMT 15 May 87

[Commentary by Sergey Alekseyev; from the 'Novosti' newscast]

[Text] The scheduled session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group has opened in Stavanger, Norway. Our commentary:

[Alekseyev] Hello, comrades. The declared aim of the session which has just opened can only be applauded -- to give an answer to the Soviet proposals on medium-range missiles and tactical missiles in Europe. Although a month has elapsed since U.S. Secretary of State Shultz was informed in Moscow of the new Soviet initiatives directed above all at the NATO bloc, it has yet to officially reply.

Admittedly, NATO Secretary General Carrington has said that prospects for reaching an INF agreement have improved. But at the same time, in an interview with THE TIMES, he categorically spoke out against the elimination of nuclear weapons in Europe. It is precisely the nuclear weapons -- and I am quoting now -- that are contributing to the prevention of war. The U.S. General Rogers, commander in chief of NATO forces in Europe, said something similar at the end of April. He too, prior to this, approved the Soviet-U.S. meetings in Moscow for their possibilities of reaching agreement on INF. The same can be said about military leaders in the FRG and France. In some interviews they speak in favor of an agreement on eliminating missiles in Europe, but in other interviews they come forth with new excuses to ensure that this agreement is not reached.

Such duplicity, contradictions, and poor judgment in the first reaction of NATO leaders to the Soviet peace proposals are explained by many Western observers in terms of their confusion and shock caused by these initiatives. But how long can this condition last? A time has come to give a definite and clear answer to the proposals of the Soviet Union and to clear our common European house from the death-bearing nuclear burden. Although there are signs that opinion will be divided in Norway, I do not wish to make pessimistic forecasts; hope for the best. The NATO nuclear planning group session will conclude tomorrow, so let us wait.

KARPOV ON 'KEY PROVISIONS' NEEDED FOR SUMMIT

PM181851 Moscow FRAVDA in Russian 19 May 87 First Edition p 4

[V. Karpov article: "Geneva: Time to Decide"]

[Text] The proposal for a separate decision on medium-range missiles in Europe, formulated in M.S. Gorbachev's 28 February statement, cast new light on the state of affairs at the USSR-U.S. talks in Geneva. The main question has not been presented on a practical plane: Is there or is there not to be an agreement leading to the elimination of U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe, restricting them to a minimal level outside Europe, and thus making it possible to effect a real breakthrough in nuclear disarmament.

The USSR Draft [subhead]

The latest round of the Geneva talks started 23 April with discussion of questions concerning medium-range missiles. Talks along the other avenues -- space and strategic offensive arms -- resumed 5 May.

On 27 April the USSR delegation submitted a compromise proposal for a draft treaty to eliminate Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe and other measures to limit and reduce USSR and U.S. medium-range missiles. This document, further supplemented by draft-agreed statements and common understandings thereto, a memorandum on the setting of starting figures for medium-range missiles, and a protocol on procedures regulating the dismantling and destruction of medium-range missiles, encompassed everything positive that had emerged in the course of preceding discussions, this being in line with the Reykjavik accords.

The Soviet draft envisages that the elimination of USSR and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe would be implemented in two stages over a 5-year period. Medium-range missiles and launch installations for medium-range missiles would be reduced by 50 percent during the first stage and would be completely eliminated during the second stage. Simultaneously with the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union and the United States would also implement measures to limit each side's medium-range missile warheads to 100 each in the Asian part of the USSR's territory and the U.S. national territory. The process of eliminating medium-range missiles would be started simultaneously by both sides and would be implemented under strict mutual verification.

The Soviet Union also proposed the elimination of USSR and U.S. operational and tactical missiles in Europe, and the solution of the question of such missiles outside Europe along lines similar to those applied to medium-range missiles, in other words by limiting them to minimum agreed levels.

The Soviet draft envisages an orderly system of guarantees that the accord reached will be strictly fulfilled. For this purpose, it is envisaged that the dismantling or destruction of medium-range missiles, launch installations for such missiles, and the corresponding auxiliary equipment will be effected in specially designated regions in accordance with agreed procedures. The sides would exchange schedules for the dismantling or destruction of means due to be reduced. The sides would pledge not to evade the provisions of the medium-range missiles treaty in any fashion, including the transmission to anyone else of medium-range missiles or components thereof, launch installations, or technical documentation referring to missiles or launch installations. Verification measures would cover both the exchange of data in the agreed amounts and observation [nablyudenije], including on-site observation, of the implementation of reductions and of the remaining medium-range missiles and related auxiliary installations and equipment, including on-site inspections whenever necessary. These inspections would be made both on the territory of the other side and within the territory of third countries where U.S. medium-range missiles and launch installations for such missiles are stationed. They would be carried out on the sites of dismantling or destruction of medium-range missiles and their launch installations, at test sites and military bases including those on the territory of third countries, and at warehouses, training centers, and manufacturing plants regardless of whether they are private or state-owned.

We are convinced that the Soviet draft provides a basis that would make it possible to elaborate a joint Soviet-U.S. draft and submit it for approval by the USSR and U.S. Governments. [paragraph continues]

Nevertheless, it is still early to say that all the obstacles in the way of achieving this result have been eliminated. The U.S. stance still retains stipulations that constitute objective obstacles to reaching an accord, do not correspond to the task of reducing the level of nuclear confrontation, and are, rather, calculated toward retaining the U.S. missile presence in Europe under a different signboard.

Three Obstacles [subhead]

The nature of the discussions going on within NATO indicates that the Soviet initiative caught U.S. and other NATO figures unawares. A paradoxical picture has emerged. The very same statesmen and politicians who, until recently, were trying to convince the public they were in favor of a zero option regarding medium-range missiles in Europe and the Soviet Union -- or so it was claimed -- was blocking accord by presenting this problem as part of a package with other questions relating to nuclear arms and space are now feverishly seeking pretexts that could be used to at least delay reaching an accord.

Specifically we are talking, for example, of the U.S. desire to enshrine in the treaty its right to reequip the Pershing-2 missiles now in Europe and turn them into shorter-range missiles. In reality this means that, following a brief modification process already being developed at enterprises belonging to the U.S. Martin-Marietta company, the Pershing-2 missiles would lose their second stage while retaining their first stage and nuclear warhead, some electronic equipment at launch installations would be replaced, and thus the Pershing-2 would seemingly cease to exist. In actual fact, according to evidence from specialists, including U.S. specialists, the reverse operation would be equally simple to perform: The second stage is brought back, the electronic equipment boards are restored, and within approximately 48 hours, the Pershing-2 missile reemerges in combat condition. In this way, if such a procedure were to be allowed, the withdrawal of U.S. Pershing-2 missiles from Europe would be nothing but fiction. The United States is also reserving to itself the right to retain long-range cruise missiles in Europe, either dismounting their nuclear warheads or basing them on ships.

Another provision hindering an accord is on the procedure for carrying out the reduction. The United States is proposing the kind of procedure which at the first stage would reduce only the Soviet Union's medium-range missiles, while the United States merely monitored and inspected the USSR's actions. The United States' missiles and bases would remain off-limits to Soviet verification. It is clear that such an approach does not satisfy the principle of equality and identical security. Thus the Soviet proposals envisage the need for a simultaneous process of eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe, and moreover done in such a way that a verification system would come into operation from the very beginning on both sides, so that the Soviet Union would have complete confidence that the destruction of medium-range missiles in Europe was being carried out in conformity with the accord reached.

The third element that causes objections is the U.S. reluctance to accept the principle proposed by the Soviet Union that the medium-range missiles remaining on USSR and U.S. national territories should be sited in such a way that their warheads cannot reach the other side's territory. This proposal is dictated by the fact that the siting of U.S. medium-range missiles within range of USSR territory, for example in Alaska, would essentially mean increasing the nuclear threat to the Soviet Union in conditions in which the latter would not increase the nuclear threat to the United States in any way and, furthermore, would even reduce its own nuclear armaments. The U.S. claims that it cannot agree to relinquish the right to site medium-range missiles in Alaska because the latter is part of U.S. national territory do not stand up to criticism. [paragraph continues].

After all, the Soviet Union also agrees to impose on its territory a certain limitation on the siting of its remaining medium-range missiles: first, not to site them west of the line of longitude 80 degrees east to ensure that they cannot reach Western Europe, and, second, to site them in such a way that they cannot reach U.S. territory in the easterly and northeasterly directions.

There are other unconstructive elements in Washington's stance.

The Situation Regarding Operational and Tactical Missiles [subhead]

At the same time the main attention has now focused on the discussions between the United States and its allies on the question of operational and tactical missiles, that is, missiles with a range of 500-1,000 km. The United States advocates not eliminating operational and tactical missiles in Europe but retaining this class of missiles. In addition to everything else, it is also clearly seeking an extra loophole to avoid the really radical solution of eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe. If operational and tactical missiles are retained, it argues, it is clearly possible to insist on the possibility of refitting Pershing-2s as operational and tactical missiles. It sounds paradoxical, but the USSR proposes eliminating its operational and tactical missiles in Europe virtually unilaterally, whereas the United States is trying to persuade the Soviet Union not to do this and to grant the U.S. side the right to have missiles of this class in Europe. It would seem that considerations relating to the plans being developed within NATO for creating a European ABM system are by no means of least importance here. The United States is harboring these plans as a means of involving the European NATO members in the U.S. SDI program. Since those countries are not party to the ABM Treaty, the United States is thereby given the opportunity to circumvent its commitments under the ABM Treaty.

The NATO consultations are proving protracted, as is discussion of the question of medium-range missiles at the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva. The U.S. side cites the need to work out a common position for the NATO countries because, it claims, in this case their interests and security are directly concerned. This approach can be understood in principle. However, we are put on our guard by the reports from NATO headquarters that it is the retention of operational and tactical missiles in Europe that is seemingly at the center of the discussions under way. The United States, clearly recognizing the weakness of its argument in favor of retaining operational and tactical missiles in Europe, has not "agreed" to the destruction by the Soviet Union of the increased-range operational and tactical missiles that were once sited in the GDR and Czechoslovakia as a retaliatory measure at the start of the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe. But the United States continues to insist on having some quantity of these missiles in Europe. Judging by press reports, various options are being discussed and various amount cited. It is proposed, for instance, to allow the United States and the Soviet Union to have 80 operational and tactical missiles each.

The European participants in NATO have found themselves in a strange position. In 1979, when NATO adopted the so-called "two-track decision," all the bloc countries were agreed that U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe would be eliminated if the Soviet Union agreed to scrap its SS-20 missiles. There was no question then of operational and tactical missiles. But now the United States is talking about the possibility of siting not only operational and tactical missiles in Europe, but missiles with a range of less than 500 km. There have been reports that the United States is planning to modernize its Lance missiles with a view to giving them a range of 300-400 km and deploying them in European positions.

As for the European states, for them the time has come for a serious and considered decision. Europe is experiencing what has rightly been called a moment of truth. It is now that West Europe must decide whether it will go down the road of real disarmament, starting with the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range and operational and tactical missiles, or whether it will continue to be held prisoner to the obsolete doctrines of nuclear deterrence.

Security Is Possible [subhead]

The Soviet Union does not propose simply "abolishing" nuclear weapons in Europe. It does not propose returning to the situation that prevailed in Europe 50 years ago, fraught with the threat of war. The USSR proposes, while eliminating nuclear weapons, to create a comprehensive European security system which would rule out the possibility of war even with the use of conventional arms. The Soviet proposals envisage consistent reductions in troops and arms in Europe to levels that would be sufficient merely for defense and repelling aggression, and would not allow European states -- including the two opposing blocs -- to conduct any kind of offensive operation.

Although the medium-range missile problem is currently at the center of world public attention, we must not lose sight of other problems relating to nuclear and space arms. The Soviet Union proposed at the Geneva talks to work out the "key provisions" envisaging the achievement of a basic accord with regard to strengthening the provisions [rezhim] of the ABM Treaty (in order to rule out the spread of the arms race to space), ensuring 50-percent cuts in Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive arms, and starting talks on phased reductions in nuclear tests. As Secretary of State G. Shultz was informed, the Soviet side believes that these aspects of the problem of nuclear and space arms are as substantial in their importance as the question of medium-range missiles. We will not make an agreement on medium-range missiles contingent on a decision on space and strategic offensive arms. But the U.S. side knows that if it were possible to agree on "key provisions" while a joint draft of a medium-range missile treaty were worked out, that could form a real basis for a subsequent Soviet-U.S. summit.

Main Flaw [subhead]

How did the U.S. side respond? The U.S. delegation submitted a draft strategic offensive weapons (SOW) treaty to the talks 8 May. The draft contains the basic provisions agreed upon in Reykjavik -- namely, the reduction of Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive weapons to 1,600 ICBM's, SLBM's, and heavy bombers, with up to 6,000 nuclear charges. At the same time the submitted draft contains no restrictions on long-range sea-launched cruise missiles. The U.S. draft again returns to the pre-Reykjavik period with regard to the various sublevels on the arms the USSR and the United States would retain after the reductions. The draft contains a whole series of other provisions that seriously complicate the possibility of reaching an agreement on 50-percent reductions in strategic offensive weapons. For instance, they have again dragged up the proposal to include a medium bomber (the "Backfire") with Soviet strategic arms, even though the USSR and the United States officially registered the common understanding back in 1979 that it was not a strategic bomber.

But the main flaw in the U.S. draft is that it wholly ignores the dependence of strategic offensive weapons reductions on an agreement preventing an arms race in space. Unless the ABM Treaty is wholly retained for a sufficiently long period -- a minimum of 10 years -- it will be impossible to implement deep cuts in strategic offensive weapons. This truth is well known to the U.S. side. It was at the core of the discussions held in Reykjavik. However, what the United States is proposing in this sphere at Geneva means moving even more sharply away from Reykjavik than on other issues. [paragraph continues]

The United States is now no longer prepared to agree with the Soviet Union not to exercise its right to withdraw from the ABM Treaty for 10 years. It is proposing a solution that has nothing to do with Reykjavik -- namely, that the Soviet Union must essentially sign an agreement which means that after 1994 the United States can embark on the full implementation of its "Star Wars" program and, prior to that date, can conduct any work in the field for 7 years, refraining merely from deploying an ABM system in space.

Obviously, this approach cannot serve even as a basis for a serious discussion. Moreover, it provides no lead into a mutually acceptable agreement. Embarking on such a decision means embarking on the destruction of the open-ended ABM Treaty, which is the foundation of the entire strategic offensive weapons limitation and reduction process. If that foundation is destroyed, the prospects for strategic offensive weapons reductions will be destroyed with it.

We would not like to think that the United States wants to give up on the possibility of reaching agreement with the USSR on the central issue of strategic offensive weapons reductions. At the same time, we cannot ignore the serious obstacles that the United States is creating through its position at the talks.

Not Wasting A Unique Chance [subhead]

Our course of reaching agreement over the entire range of nuclear and space arms remains in force. The Soviet proposals provide the necessary conditions for working out mutually acceptable solutions. If the United States is really interested in reducing the level of nuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union, and if it is prepared in deeds rather than words to move down the road of strategic offensive weapons reductions and solve the problem of medium-range missiles, it could achieve this in cooperation with the USSR. But to this end the United States must eschew the course of the arms race and of trying to secure unilateral advantages.

A unique opportunity has now been created in Soviet-U.S. relations -- primarily through the efforts of the Soviet Union -- to break the dangerous trend toward arms races in more and more types of nuclear weapons and prevent an arms race in space. But to achieve this we must realize that the moment of truth now upon us requires bold, unorthodox solutions and political courage.

VORONTSOV ON WESTERN REACTION TO ARMS PROPOSALS

PM151102 Paris LE FIGARO in French 13 May 87 p 2

[Article by First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov: "Turning Wishful Thinking Into Action...."]

[Text] The latest Soviet nuclear disarmament proposals are particularly consistent with the wishes expressed by Western Europe, notably France. We are very close to finding a solution. Frankly, it is difficult for us to understand the logic and arguments of those who are now expressing their anxiety and, more especially, those who are abandoning their own objectives at the very time when there is a real possibility of attaining them -- those who are abandoning the "zero option" and progress "toward a balance of forces at the lowest possible level." They are thus departing from their own previous proposals, obstinately seeing a "trap" for the West in the simple fact that we are taking account of the Western countries' worries and demands. To say that the withdrawal of Soviet medium-range missiles and shorter-range tactical missiles would place Western Europe in a less favorable position than in 1979 (before the deployment of the U.S. Pershing and cruise missiles) seems rather unconvincing, not to say paradoxical. The balance of forces essentially has not changed.

At the same time, even if these missiles were reduced to zero, Europe would still have a large number of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons, amounting to almost 4,500 nuclear warheads. The U.S. forward-based weapons are still not included in any agreement. These weapons amount to more than 400 F-111, F-4, and F-16 fighter-bombers capable of striking all the territory of the European socialist countries and the European part of the USSR. In addition to these, there are the aircraft on carriers.

In addition, and this is the most important thing, the French and British nuclear capabilities are not involved and are still being modernized and actively developed. All these facts and the presence of more than 300,000 U.S. soldiers in Western Europe are for some reason not taken into account by those who fear a "break in the link" between U.S. and West European security. The "link" was not first established 4 years ago when the U.S. medium-range missiles were deployed in Western Europe, however. The dismantling of the medium-range and reduced-range missiles will not destroy U.S. political, economic, and military interests in Europe.

We are not avoiding tackling the problem of the remaining tactical nuclear weapons either. While taking account of their "dual purpose," and their link with the general organization of the armed forces, we are proposing to settle this question in a comprehensive way by reducing the armed forces and conventional weapons, including tactical planes in which the West has clear superiority, and we have proposed practical measures in this sphere.

As in the past, people are harping on monitoring problems like an old scratched disc, as if there were no Stockholm agreement on confidence-building measures and no statements by the USSR reaffirming its desire -- in its own interest and that of others -- to have agreements. If we are talking about the reduction and, more especially, the elimination of whole classes of nuclear weapons in Europe, we are at least as anxious as other people (if not more, because the Soviet Union is making the greatest reductions) to ensure that the agreements will be stringently implemented.

In our view, all missiles and launch installations without exception, including components in factories and enterprises, must be strictly monitored, including on-site inspections, irrespective of whether the owner is the state or a private individual. The inspectors must have access to any area where their presence is required.

It is difficult to accept that potential agreements might be hampered by any kind of reservations that postpone their signing and water down their content and significance, especially since these restrictive clauses are often based on misconceptions. Let us take the example of conventional weapons. Many people in the West regard Soviet "superiority" in this area as self-evident. But this is a mistaken view. The London International Institute for Strategic Studies stated in a recent report that the balance of conventional forces between NATO and the Warsaw Pact in Europe is still such that a general military aggression would be an extremely dangerous enterprise for either side...that it is evident that neither side has an overwhelming superiority of forces that would guarantee it victory. There is, of course, an asymmetry of armed forces in Europe as a result of historical, geographical, and other factors. If disapproval is going to be expressed about one side's partial superiority in a particular sphere, we can juggle with figures indefinitely. We are proposing to eliminate these elements of inequality in a radical way.

The USSR resolutely advocates the rapid drafting of an international convention on the banning and destruction of chemical weapons, and has stopped producing them. With this chemical disarmament in mind, we have started constructing a special enterprise to destroy existing chemical weapons. [paragraph continues]

To be frank, at a time when the drafting of an ad hoc convention is entering its final phase, it is difficult to find a rational explanation for France's decision to consider starting production of chemical weapons, in view of the fact that France has always opposed this type of weapon and was even a depositary of the 1925 Geneva protocol banning the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons.

The search for greater security cannot continue to be pursued by a constant accumulation of new types of weapons. Given that there are tens of thousands of nuclear warheads, and that the numbers are rapidly increasing, nuclear weapons have ceased to be a deterrent and have become a vast threat hanging over mankind. This first step toward disarmament -- probably the most difficult one because it is the first -- is extremely important. If it is taken, many questions that now seem tricky, some based on norms and concepts inherited from the early fifties, may be seen in an entirely different light. The essential thing now is to clearly see the facts and show sufficient political will. We are on the point of finally turning wishful thinking about disarmament into practical action.

FRG'S 'STUBBORN' STANCE ON USSR PROPOSALS CRITICIZED

LD150953 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0031 GMT 15 May 87

[Excerpt] Bonn, 15 May (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov reports:

Official Bonn is not interested in any radical steps to reduce nuclear missile weapons in Europe and is trying by means of various sorts of subterfuges and tricks to delay the resolving of a problem which is vitally important for mankind, the problem of eliminating nuclear missiles on the continent. This conclusion can be drawn from the statement made by an official representative of the FRG Government at a press conference here on Thursday.

The essence of the statement comes down virtually to saying that Bonn intends, he says, to continue "to study carefully and in detail" the Soviet proposal for a "zero option" on operational and tactical missiles in Europe. At the same time, it is indicative that the representative, while uttering many words about peace and disarmament, did not reply to the question about when the West German Government intended to complete this manifestly protracted "study." He restricted himself only to diffuse assurances that Bonn would "continue intensive contacts" with its allies on this problem.

The stubborn unwillingness of the ruling coalition to give a concrete and constructive reply to the USSR's proposal is meeting with sharp criticism, primarily from the FRG's parliamentary opposition. [passage omitted]

FRENCH CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROGRAM EXAMINED

WA131200 Moscow APN MILITARY BULLETIN in English No 7, Apr 87 pp 8-10

[Article by Doctor of Technical Sciences Pavel Akimov: "France Started Preparations for the Manufacture of Binary Weapons Long Before American Medium-Range and Cruise Missiles Appeared in Europe"]

[Text] The French National Assembly adopted a government programme of rearmament, promised by Jacques Chirac in 1986 immediately upon coming to power. The programme provides not only for a considerable buildup of the country's nuclear potential, but also for the development of a new generation of chemical weapons - binary weapons.

Significantly enough, official French spokesmen link the buildup of chemical weapons arsenals with the alleged edge of the Warsaw Pact countries in chemical armaments and the supposedly continuing spread of this kind of arms among states that did not possess it before.

President Francois Mitterrand of France spoke in the same vein, saying that the French "chemical deterrence" is a "reply" to the possible achievement of a Soviet-American agreement on medium-range missiles, a "compensation" for the reduction of nuclear potentials in Europe.

The French side is creating an impression that its chemical arms programme is something new. The facts tell a different story.

France began preparing for the manufacture of its own binary weapons long before American cruise and Pershing-2 missiles appeared in Europe. Paris and Washington have had agreed plans for cooperation in binary ammunition since the middle 70s.

France is planning to produce in binary configuration two types of 155 mm artillery shells, 142 mm non-guided jet projectile with independently targetable warheads, four types of low-calibre air bombs, aviation cluster ammunition, spray tanks of 300 and 450 litres, and also ammunition for the marine 357 mm jet bomb thrower. These kinds of ammunition will be filled with nerve gases of the sarin, soman and amiton types (the latter is similar to American VX).

France has an up-to-date scientific and industrial base for the development and mass production both of unitary and binary chemical ammunition. Binary toxic agents were developed in military laboratories situated in Le Bouchet (near Paris), in Tarbes (Hautes-Pyrenees department) and Lyons. The military department runs 13 specialised plants, one of which is situated at Pont-de-Claix and designed to produce only chemical arms.

French ammunition is tested on ranges situated in France itself and in its overseas territories. Filled with imitation formulas, they are tested on a range at Entressen (Bouches-du-Rhone). Before the 70s France possessed a chemical test site with an area of 5,000 square kilometres at Beni-Ounif (Algerian Sahara). France secured the right to use the site even after the liberation of Algeria. According to some data, this range served to test binary ammunition in military form.

A lot of attention is given to preparing the French army for chemical warfare. Large exercises are carried out in situations as close to combat as possible. Thus, in May 1983 the English Channel was the scene of Franco-British exercises Manchex-83 to drill transportation of chemical weapons by sea and to train ship personnel in operating in emergencies, including a shipwreck. During the visit to France of Karl Carstens, Federal President of the FRG, the 2nd French Corps conducted exercises. One of the tasks set was for the 5th tank division to train to operate in conditions of chemical warfare. Similar exercises were attended by French President Francois Mitterrand and the then Defence Minister Charles Hernu.

PROGRESS IN 'HUMANIZING' INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PM141355 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 87 First Edition p 4

[Article by PRAVDA political observer Yuriy Zhukov: "It Is Time To Learn To Listen To and Understand Each Other"]

[Text] As time goes on Soviet foreign policy, which is based on the new thinking corresponding to the realities of the nuclear missile age, is evoking an increasingly strong response throughout the world. When our 27th party congress proclaimed the concept of an interconnected, interdependent, even if contradictory, yet in many respects integral human society, many Sovietologists aspiring to the role of latter-day prophets said, smiling wryly and skeptically shaking their heads: Propaganda!

However, our party and state have followed this up with a whole series of well thought-out, consistent, and purposeful steps. And as time passes, it is becoming more and more difficult for our enemies to respond to each new constructive step taken by Soviet diplomacy with the hackneyed cry of propaganda, propaganda, propaganda!...

We are aware that ahead of us still lies a long and hard struggle to achieve a radical breakthrough in international relations and the acceptance by all states belonging to opposed political systems of the new thinking, which rules out wars as a way of states influencing other states by means of force.

What are the reasons for our confidence in the ultimate success of the policy based on the new thinking?

As M.S. Gorbachev noted in his speech in the Kremlin 24 April, the new political thinking and the ensuing new foreign policy practice are based on a realistic analysis of the present-day world, which has changed greatly in recent times. The world now looks like a community of states with a different history, different traditions and customs, and different political, economic, and social systems. Every nation has its aspirations. Every state has its national interests. But despite all this they are equally interested in their survival, which can be ensured only if another world war can be avoided.

There are profound contradictions between us and capitalism, of course. And, of course, the inexorable laws of the class struggle continue to apply in today's world. Rivalry between the two opposed social systems is inevitable. However, the humane socialist system is magnanimously proposing to its opponent -- the capitalist system -- the exclusion of the military component that is fraught with universal annihilation from this rivalry once and for all. It is proposing peaceful competition in the economy, science, technology, education, and health care, in all spheres, in short, with the exception of the arms race. Let each nation decide its destiny itself and make the choice between the competing systems!

Mankind's security on the threshold of the 21st century is indivisible. Guided by this incontrovertible truth, our party has put forward its program of struggle for mankind's survival which is based on the principle that you cannot build your own security at the expense of the security of others. Security encompasses all the main spheres of international relations -- political, economic, and humanitarian.

The implementation of the program put forward by the 27th congress of our party is called upon to advance civilization to a qualitatively new level. [paragraph continues]

Profoundly convinced that this is a realistic task, the Soviet leadership is developing its peace offensive on an increasingly broad scale.

The Kremlin has firmly captured the initiative and as time passes it is becoming increasingly difficult for our partners in talks to justify the "No" with which they have replied so often and are still replying to the Soviet Union's proposals. Personal meetings between our leadership and the leaders of foreign countries are playing a tremendous role in this active and militant struggle.

In the course of meetings with the fraternal socialist countries' leaders our community's purposeful initiatives are coordinated, new ideas are developed, and new, far-reaching collective ventures are proposed.

Meetings with leaders of developing and nonaligned states make it possible to considerably expand the front of the peace offensive and to mutually enrich our philosophical concepts of the present and the future, which closely resemble each other. The most vivid example of this was the Delhi declaration signed as a result of the meeting between M.S. Gorbachev and Prime Minister R. Gandhi of India.

Meetings with leaders of capitalist states which take place in an atmosphere of direct and impartial dialogue are marked by lively, and as a rule fruitful, exchanges of views and a quest for possible, mutually acceptable solutions clarifying what can be achieved at a given stage and what will have to be fought out in the future.

Talks in the Kremlin with parliamentary delegations and public figures proceed along the same lines. A dialogue aimed at humanizing interstate relations is being developed and deepened.

In our time it is more important than ever before to learn to listen to and understand each other. The Soviet side is ready for this. Let there be arguments and polemics if, ultimately, the dialogue makes it possible for its participants to clarify each other's positions and intentions, thus clearing the path toward mutual understanding and subsequent adoption of mutually acceptable solutions.

Let us recall the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Geneva in November 1985. There were many arguments. However, in the end a mutual pledge was adopted by the USSR and the United States "to prevent an arms race in space and to end it on earth, to limit and reduce nuclear arms, and to consolidate strategic stability."

Let us recall the meeting in Reykjavik in October 1986. There too there were many arguments and furthermore it proved impossible to reach agreement on the key issue of the nonmilitarization of space. Nonetheless, on the basis of Soviet proposals, far-reaching accords were achieved in Reykjavik which pave the way to substantial reductions and even the elimination of nuclear arms. The groundwork for the solution of these problems was laid in Reykjavik.

It is not easy to conduct talks on such key issues with our U.S. partners. Washington is constantly backpedaling on existing accords, putting forward new conditions and reservations, and using the talks purely for propaganda purposes. Nonetheless, the persistent and consistent peace initiative of the Soviet side is bearing fruit. A vivid demonstration of this is the progress achieved at the talks on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. The recent Soviet proposals for the elimination of not just medium-range but also operational and tactical missiles have deprived disarmament's opponents of their last trump cards.

Angrily they have spoken out against the elimination of our operational and tactical missiles and demanded that instead the USSR agree to "upgrading" their own missiles in this class. This "topsy-turvy logic" has naturally evoked protests from sober-minded people in West Europe.

Despite all the propaganda tricks to which U.S. politicians and generals resort, the new thinking is gradually winning over the minds of people and ousting the old way of thinking.

This is graphically demonstrated by the utterances of prominent figures who in the recent past were still under the spell of the old stereotypes of confrontational thinking. I would just like to mention an article entitled "Pulling Back From the Brink of the Abyss" published last year in the U.S. journal ATLANTIC by a team of 10 authors, all of whom, including McGeorge Bundy, George Kennan, Robert McNamara, and Gerard Smith formerly held very prominent posts in the U.S. Administration.

They expressed themselves in favor of the United States and NATO pledging no first use of nuclear weapons and withdrawing all nuclear systems from forward-based positions. These leaders went on to say: "The policy of no first use of nuclear weapons unquestionably presupposes the renunciation of the strategic defense initiative. The danger of SDI consists in the fact that it proposes a technical solution to a problem that is essentially political: /In the nuclear age there can be no security either East or West unless this security is mutual/ (my emphasis -- Yu. Zh.) [Slantlines denote boldface as published]

There was also a very weighty and convincing ring to the recent collective statement of six former U.S. defense secretaries, C. Weinberger's predecessors, in defense of the ABM Treaty and against attempts to torpedo it for the sake of the implementation of the notorious program of preparations for "Star Wars."

The conquest of people's minds by the new thinking is even more noticeable in Europe, fated to turn into a heap of ashes in the event of a nuclear war. On 23 March, for instance, the British Labor Party issued a program document entitled "Europe: The New Detente" that clearly states: "Just like our socialist colleagues in the FRG, who have elaborated unique agreements with the ruling party in the GDR, Labor will conduct talks with the political forces in East Europe about new spheres of cooperation."

The program defines specific tasks of this cooperation in questions of security, the economy, science, trade, environmental protection, and the humanitarian sphere. All these tasks virtually coincide with the program for ensuring universal security put forward by the 27th CPSU Congress.

The Social Democratic Party in the FRG occupies the same positions. They also find expression in the speeches of many prominent figures in West Europe belonging to parties of different political persuasions, including ruling parties.

There are still many difficulties and obstacles on the path toward the humanization of international relations, beginning with attempts on the part of the U.S. ruling circles to hamper the dialogue by refusing visas to Soviet citizens and ending with persisting fears of Western citizens confused by anti-Soviet propaganda who still see the USSR as an "enemy." Nonetheless, considerable progress can already be registered along the path to the establishment of civilized, human relations between states and peoples. And we may be sure that great successes are yet to be achieved along this path in the future.

ENVOY ADDRESSES GENEVA FORUM ON CHERNOBYL EFFECTS

LD152254 Moscow TASS in English 1840 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Geneva May 15 TASS -- The Tenth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization which has been in session here for two weeks now, continues discussing questions of practical application of meteorological and hydrological information for the needs of economic development of all countries. Much attention is being paid to problems of preservation of the environment, lessening the damage inflicted by natural phenomena or human activities, for instance by various accidents accompanied by the discharge of harmful substances to the atmosphere.

The delegation of the USSR submitted additional data on the aftermath of the last year Chernobyl accident and its liquidation. Speaking at a press conference here today, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Monitoring the Natural Environment Yuriy Issrael noted that much had already been done, specifically the faulty reactor had been localized and the contamination of flood waters this spring was prevented. A great volume of work was done to decontaminate the locality in the Chernobyl zone and the evacuated population of many villages and settlements will be able to come back home soon.

Much attention in the Soviet Union is being paid to questions of safe development of nuclear power engineering, improvement of the training of personnel for this purpose. Yuriy Issrael noted with satisfaction the fruitful cooperation in this area with international organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization, which rapidly and favourably responded to Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal in May last year that the international regime of safe development of nuclear power engineering to be established. That enabled the adoption of two international conventions. The work in the study of operative meteorological aspects of discharges of harmful substances into the atmosphere and atmospheric emergency situations within the framework of the world meteorological organization is continuing.

MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL ANTIWAR MEETING ENDS 15 MAY

LD152057 Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 15 TASS -- By TASS correspondents Vladimir Yegorov, Valeriy Kostylev and Aleksandr Snastin:

Time has come for moving from general peace declarations to practical work in the antiwar campaign. The participants in the fourth meeting of antiwar organisations of the West and the East supported this idea voiced by Genrikh Borovik, chairman of the Soviet peace committee.

The three-day meeting closed in Moscow today.

Representatives of 169 national and international antiwar organisations from 40 countries took part in the discussions. More than 300 peace activists set forth specific proposals aimed at stepping up the campaign against the arms race and preventing nuclear war.

Speakers voiced a unanimous opinion that security could not be ensured through the efforts of only one country as it concerns all countries.

They said nuclear war could not be won. Peace could be ensured only by political rather than military means.

David Thompson of Canada, a representative of the international organisation Scientists for Nuclear Disarmament, who spoke on behalf of the group which worked on military-strategic aspects of international security, emphasised the importance of the Soviet proposals to eliminate nuclear, chemical and other weapons of mass annihilation.

Speakers from the working group "International Security: Economic Aspects" expressed the conviction that peace forces could press governments to reduce allocations for military needs and channel the funds thus released into the solution of social problems.

The meeting considered ecological and energy problems, which had grown into one more threat to mankind. It pointed out the need for active public involvement in the solution of problems of settling local conflicts, ensuring the security of sea communications and nuclear power engineering, and putting an end to international terrorism.

"The Moscow meeting was very useful," Ignias Lindemans, member of the leadership of the International Committee for European Security and Cooperation and chairman of the Flemish branch of the international Catholic organisation Pax Christi, told the TASS correspondents.

He said the openness of Soviet representatives, who had expounded the main goals of the Soviet peace initiatives, had impressed him.

Acute discussions were held in the human rights working group. Some members made attempts to use the meeting for political purposes. U.S. Catholic priest Louis Dolan, leader of the Movement for a Better World, tried to reduce the importance of the extensive and fruitful dialogue to the 10-minute speech of a representative of a Soviet informal organisation calling itself the group for East-West trust.

Professor Mikhail Krutogolovov, film director Stanislav Rostotskiy and others said that there still were people in the West who had not given up the old notions of our country and its policies, and that the freedom of expressing one's views that differed from generally accepted ones reflected the spirit of the deep-going transformations in Soviet society.

The meeting urged all antiwar movements to rally closely together to prevent nuclear catastrophe. The demand for a nuclear-free world is a demand for mankind's immortality, it said.

ECE SEMINAR IN MOSCOW ON CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

LD180753 Moscow TASS in English 0715 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Moscow TASS May 18 -- A seminar opened in Moscow's World Trade Center today to discuss the role of the chemical industry in food production. Sponsored by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, it is being attended by some 200 experts from socialist, developing and capitalist countries.

They will hear reports on various aspects of the problems of food supplies and discuss the ways how the chemical industry can help solve it as well as East-West cooperation in the field. After the meeting its participants will visit a number of research centers and factories in Moscow, Leningrad, Riga and Vilnius.

ATTACK ON U.S. FRIGATE IN GULF REPORTED

LD180719 Moscow TASS in English 0716 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Washington May 18 TASS -- At least three American seamen were killed and another 30 were unaccounted for aboard the U.S. naval frigate Stark after it came under fire in the Persian Gulf, an official spokesman for the Pentagon said.

A State Department spokesman said at the same time that the Stark was sailing to Bahrain under its own steam and the escort of U.S. warships.

Reagan Promises Investigation

LD181901 Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Washington May 18 TASS -- President Reagan has promised today to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident in the Persian Gulf which claimed the lives of 28 crew members of the U.S. Stark missile-carrying frigate. "We have protested this attack," the U.S. President said, "in the strongest terms and are investigating the circumstances of the incident." He again pointed out the importance of the Persian Gulf for the U.S. foreign political interests.

Ships Put on Alert

LD182248 Moscow TASS in English 2232 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Washington May 19 TASS -- President Reagan announced on Monday that U.S. warships patrolling in the Persian Gulf were put on a heightened state of alert. They were ordered to fire upon any Iranian or Iraqi plane "flying in a pattern which indicates hostile intent." This statement was made at the end of the meeting of the National Security Planning Group which continued nearly the entire day. It was called immediately after an air missile attack on the U.S. frigate "Stark" in the Persian Gulf on Sunday, which killed 28 members of the crew.

U.S. Presence 'Menacing'

LD190826 Moscow TASS in English 0754 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Washington May 19 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports:

U.S. President Ronald Reagan Monday ordered "a higher state of alert" for U.S. vessels on patrol duty in the Persian Gulf.

Under this change in status, they are to fire on any Iranian or Iraqi plane "flying in a pattern which indicates hostile intent."

The presidential order was announced in a statement made after a meeting of the interdepartmental National Security Planning Group called urgently earlier in the day in the wake of Sunday's missile attack on the USS Stark, which left 28 of its crew members dead.

It followed from the statement that the United States is not going to pull its warships out of the Gulf.

U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger also bluntly admitted that in a Monday interview with CNN television when he said his country was determined to retain its presence in the Gulf whose waters, he stressed, had been patrolled by American ships since 1949.

Whatever would be decided in the White House, it was plain, the television network commented, that American ships would not leave the area.

In the light of the presidential order and Weinberger's remarks, U.S. permanent naval "patrolling" in the Persian Gulf has assumed an ever more menacing nature, which is fraught with the threat of a further and extremely dangerous flareup of tension throughout the region and even perhaps of the conflict spreading elsewhere.

According to official explanations, U.S. warships are on permanent duty in waters thousands of miles away from American shores to "ensure free shipping" which the United States claims is constantly endangered by somebody or something, including the Iran-Iraq war.

The war has really aggravated the situation in the Middle East dramatically. But the U.S. Administration has also contributed to that, by supplying arms to Iran without congressional knowledge so that to prevent the bloody conflict from petering out and thus shore up the positions of Israel, its "strategic ally" in the Middle East.

The U.S. Administration's concern for "free shipping", demonstrated with the use of force, has led to buildups in the tension and casualties, including American casualties, in the Middle East more than once.

Suffice it to recall the provocative maneuvers of the U.S. Navy off Libyan shores, which were also conducted under the pretext of the need to "ensure free shipping," the shelling of Lebanese territory by the battleship New Jersey in 1983, and the death of 241 U.S. Marines in Beirut.

In Washington they prefer not to draw a direct parallel between the consequences of U.S. military presence off Libyan and Lebanese shores, on the one hand, and the latest incident in the Persian Gulf and the order for the U.S. Navy to shoot, on the other. But this parallel is self-evident.

Being clearly aware of it, Democratic Congressman Robert Torricelli said it was the presence of U.S. naval ships in the Persian Gulf that led to the tragedy which was to be expected sooner or later.

He described the incident as underlining the failure of U.S. strategy.

The United States, NBC television noted, has now paid a price for its presence in the Gulf.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS REAGAN NEWS CONFERENCE

PM181333 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 May 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Reagan News Conference"]

[Text] Washington, 16 May -- President Reagan assailed congressmen who propose cutting the administration's request for huge military appropriations for the next fiscal year and advocate specific measures in arms limitation, in particular, abandoning nuclear explosions with a yield in excess of 1 kiloton and reducing the administration's planned expenditure on the "Star Wars" program.

Charging these legislators with "irresponsibility," the President, addressing a news conference for regional newspaper editors, resorted to the now traditional claim in these circumstances that reducing the military programs proposed by the White House will hinder the administration in its conduct of arms control talks. "Certain modifications proposed in Congress," the President stated, "such as the proposals connected with nuclear tests or SDI, would undermine the U.S. stance in Geneva and tie my hands in conducting foreign policy."

Journalists hurled questions at Reagan on the unabating "Irangate" scandal, in which the White House occupies center stage. The President tried in his reply to assure people that he "sees no evidence" that the investigation into the "Iran-contra" affair has dealt his administration a mortal blow.

"However, public opinion polls over the last 6 months have recorded a considerable decline not only in your popularity but also in support for administration policy. How do you respond to that?" — one of the journalists asked.

"I have told the truth. I have told everything I knew," the President assured them. However, his explanations were confused. Thus, he categorically denied that he knew about the transfer, in circumvention of the law, of part of the multimillion-dollar proceeds from the sale of U.S. arms to Iran as aid to the contras. However, when the President was asked to comment on the testimony offered at the congressional "Irangate" hearings by his former national security adviser, Robert McFarlane, the President observed that "there is no doubt" that he was personally briefed on contra operations and the situation in Nicaragua.

WHITE HOUSE CHANGES 'TACTICS' IN IRAN AFFAIR

LD181328 Moscow TASS in English 1246 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Washington May 18 TASS -- The White House makes frenzied attempts to justify the flouting by the administration of U.S. laws and drive the investigation of the "Irangate" scandal into a maze of unending legal disputes.

The administration has sharply altered its tactics in the approach to this affair now. Earlier, Reagan and members of his entourage declined that the President had any knowledge about military aid to the contras in circumvention of the congressional ban. Now, the White House argues that this law was not applied to the President and the National Security Council whose members were direct executives of the operation.

"There is nothing in the law that prevents citizens -- individuals or groups -- from offering aid of whatever kind they wanted to...and my interpretation was that it was not restrictive on the national security adviser or National Security Council...", Reagan said as regards the Boland Amendment in a conversation with reporters for several weeklies.

This amendment banned most strictly U.S. military or intelligence agencies from providing direct or indirect aid to the contras in the period between October 1984 and October 1986, UPI news agency points out.

Senator Patrick Leahy said that the new stance by the White House actually "amounted to pretending that the President is not part of the government...the President is not above the law" the senator emphasized.

In his turn, Senator William Cohen said that there appeared ever more proofs that a whole number of laws were violated at different times. He said that anguish gripped him when he saw clear examples of the contempt of law.

The CBS television network cites the point of view of Richard Tribe, an expert on constitutional issues, who called as absurd the White House attempts to prove that the congressional ban did not cover the President and the National Security Council.

He said the President could not, acting behind the stage, engineer such operations of the National Security Council and other agencies. He cannot act beyond the restrictions imposed by law.

And this means that the President possibly committed a violation of the law, which falls under impeachment.

The special commissions of the U.S. Congress conducting the probe into the "Iran-contras" operation study the issue of whether President Reagan's actions fall under impeachment -- the procedure, stipulated by the U.S. Constitution, under which Congress removes the country's President from office with the possibility that a case can subsequently be brought against him.

SMIRNOV DISCUSSES SOVIET, U.S. NAVAL POLICIES

PM181422 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 May 87 First Edition p 5

["Evil Intentions and Irrefutable Facts: Answers by Fleet Admiral N.I. Smirnov, First Deputy Commander in Chief of the USSR Navy, to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's Questions" -- date, place not given]

[Text] [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] In the West statements are made in which the Soviet Union is accused of naval expansion in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. What can you say about that?

[Smirnov] The Soviet Union is a maritime power, its shores are washed by three oceans. The presence of Soviet ships in their waters is due to the need to protect our sea borders. This applies fully to the Pacific Fleet, which, like the other Soviet fleets, is equipped with modern ships and combat hardware.

At the same time I wish to stress that the Soviet Navy does not constitute a threat to anyone's security or sovereignty. It fulfills purely defensive functions. The presence of Soviet ships in certain regions of the world's oceans is an enforced countermeasure to the expansionist U.S. policy. This applies in particular to the Indian Ocean, where there is a small detachment of our ships to safeguard the Soviet state's interests.

It is well known to the world public that it is not the Soviet Union, but the United States that constantly builds up its Armed Forces groupings in Asia and the Pacific and is seeking to pull together a military alliance of Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul. The strike forces of the U.S. 7th Fleet are deployed in close proximity to the shores of the USSR and the other Asian socialist countries at bases in Alaska, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines. At exercises and maneuvers they rehearse frankly aggressive, offensive operations. The United States also keeps a fairly powerful aircraft carrier assault group permanently in the Indian Ocean.

In the desire to distract the world public's attention from the military preparations of the United States and its allies, U.S. propaganda deliberately misrepresents the reasons for the presence of Soviet ships outside the USSR's coastal waters and tries to represent this as Soviet expansion.

But today such false assertions do not work. The peoples of the Asian countries see the USSR as an active and consistent fighter for disarmament and the building of a nonviolent world free from nuclear weapons. It is the Soviet state that has recently offered a number of large-scale initiatives aimed at settling the problems of the Asian-Pacific region, lowering the level of military activeness in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, reducing armed forces and nuclear and conventional arms, eliminating military bases and facilities on other countries' territories, and developing equal, mutually advantageous cooperation.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Western propaganda has recently been making a lot of noise about the fact that there is a Soviet naval base on SRV territory, constituting a threat to the security of the countries of Asia and the Pacific. What lies behind this ballyhoo?

[Smirnov] This question is in a way a continuation of the first question. The West is indeed making a lot of noise about Cam Ranh, but, as the Oriental proverb has it, the eye sees the truth, and the ear hears a lie. This is the truth.

On the Cam Ranh Peninsula, which is what we are talking about, there is in operation a temporary material and technical supply point for the ships of the Soviet Pacific Fleet, by agreement with the SRV Government. It is intended for the replenishment of stocks for fuel, food, and water, the carrying out of minor repairs, and the provision of leisure facilities for personnel during brief calls by Soviet ships and vessels on passages from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean and back. We rent no territory in Cam Ranh, the Soviet ships calling at the port use the same wharves as SRV ships. Security at the port is carried out by the Vietnamese.

The question may arise: How does a material and technical supply point differ from a military base? This can be seen from the example of the U.S. naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines.

This major U.S. naval base is intended to provide backup for the activity of the ships, aircraft, and marine units of the U.S. 7th Fleet in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The United States has rented the territory of its base from the Philippines since 1947. Stationed here are: U.S. Navy command headquarters for the Philippines; the headquarters of the operational formation of surface ships and fleet service forces in the Western Pacific.

The Subic Bay naval base has more than 20 wharves with a total length of 9,000 meters, which makes it possible simultaneously to base 30-35 warships of the main classes, including 2 multipurpose aircraft carriers. There is also a supply dump which is reckoned to be one of the biggest such facilities outside the United States, and can supply ships and aircraft of any type within the 7th Fleet. The colossal capacity of the oil reservoirs (some 400,000 tonnes) and the ammunition dump (more than 50,000 tonnes) located on the base's territory makes it possible to satisfy two-thirds of the requirements of the 7th Fleet's ships and aircraft for combat operations in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. There are well known reports on the siting of U.S. nuclear weapons on Philippine territory, too.

The U.S. naval base has a ship repair yard that meets 65 percent of the fleet's repair requirements. Moreover the base has a medical center and hospital, Marine barracks, housing, and leisure zones for personnel from the fleet and the naval aviation. Incidentally, Philippine ships can call at the base only with the permission of the U.S. command.

It should be noted that the United States has set up and has today on the territory of Asian and Pacific countries a total of around 300 different military bases and facilities. So it is not hard to see where the threat to the security and sovereignty of the region's countries really comes from.

The Soviet Union is a committed supporter of the elimination of naval bases on other countries' territories, and therefore has no intention of turning the Cam Ranh material and technical supply point into a naval base of its own. As M.S. Gorbachev has said, if the United States renounced its military presence in, say, the Philippines, we would respond accordingly.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Representatives of a number of Western states try to make out that agreements in the sphere of fisheries concluded by the USSR with certain countries in the South Pacific will lead to those countries becoming support bases for the Soviet Navy. How can these fabrications be characterized?

[Smirnov] I can say categorically that fishing in foreign economic zones in any region of the world's oceans has no connection whatever with the activity of our Navy.

As for the agreements the editorial office mentions in its question, it is well known that the conclusion of such agreements is provided for by international law with a view to ensuring that all states have access to surpluses within the permitted catch in the economic zones of littoral states in any regions. This practice of making agreements is encouraged by the United Nations and other international organizations. Therefore the West's fabrications, apart from attempting to discredit the Soviet Union's actions, in effect cast aspersions on the established norms of international cooperation among states on questions of the utilization of the resources of the world's oceans.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] In recent years U.S. military activeness and in particular the activity of the U.S. Navy in the Asian and Pacific region has increased constantly. Why is this?

[Smirnov] The Asian and Pacific region, in terms of its military-strategic significance, is regarded by the U.S. military-political leadership as the next most important possible theater of war after Europe and the Atlantic. Therefore, according to Secretary of State G. Shultz, America's interests in the region "require a permanent and impressive U.S. presence in all zones of the Pacific Ocean."

At present the U.S. Pacific Fleet has all the components of a modern navy. It numbers some 180 warships, more than 1,400 planes and helicopters, and two expeditionary divisions of Marines. In line with the provisions of its doctrine of "direct confrontation," the United States is stepping up the activeness of its naval forces near the Soviet Far East. In recent years various assault groupings of the U.S. Navy have been in operation off the USSR's shores almost constantly, rehearsing options for the most effective utilization of forces for a surprise attack on the Soviet Union in the initial phase of war. Among such measures are, for instance, the annual exercise "Team Spirit," "Fleetex," "Brim Frost," and others.

In general the growing military activeness by the United States and its partners in the Asian and Pacific region and the rise in the level of daily activity of assault groups of their naval forces in regions close to the Soviet Pacific Fleet bases are a concrete expression of the aggressive military-strategic concept of "forward marine borders."

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] What can you tell us about the so-called "new naval strategy" the U.S. Navy has recently been intensively rehearsing at naval exercises and maneuvers?

[Smirnov] The "new naval strategy" of the United States is a component part of its military doctrine of "direct confrontation" with the USSR. What it amounts to is to considerably increase the offensive potential of the U.S. Navy within the general system of military operations, ensure its superiority at sea through a quantitative and qualitative increase in strike facilities, and ultimately to establish control by the naval forces of the United States and its partners in all "vitally important" regions of the world -- the North Atlantic, the Pacific and Indian oceans, and the Norwegian and Mediterranean Seas. What is most important, according to one of the originators of this strategy, former U.S. Secretary of the Navy J. Lehman, is that the U.S. naval forces should be prepared to wage offensive operations against the USSR in its own territorial waters and to strike targets located deep within Soviet territory. To this end the U.S. Navy, together with its allies, is intensively rehearsing the provisions of this "naval strategy" at exercises and maneuvers both in Europe and the Atlantic and in the Far East, and has concentrated in close proximity to the USSR's territory assault groupings commensurate with wartime groupings.

What is the danger in this U.S. strategy? The danger is that it leads to the further intensification of the aggressiveness of the U.S. Navy, a rise in the level of the sides' military confrontation in various regions of the world, and in increase in the potential for military conflicts within those regions.

In these conditions the USSR and the other socialist countries are forced to take appropriate measures to ensure their own security and maintain the military equilibrium.

'MOST POWERFUL' NONNUCLEAR TEST EVER CONDUCTED

LD160155 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] A non-nuclear explosion, the most powerful in history, has been carried out at the United States proving grounds in New Mexico. Four thousand six hundred and eighty-five tons of explosives were blasted, which equals a nuclear explosion with a yield of 8 kilotons. The aim of the test, carried out jointly with experts from Britain, Canada, Norway, and Sweden, was to test the influence of the blast and thermal radiation on military hardware, bunkers, and the environment.

LAUNCHING OF NEW U.S. WARSHIP REPORTED

LD100734 Moscow TASS in English 0724 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] San Francisco May 10 TASS -- Long Beach, California State, one of the biggest naval bases in the USA, launched the new frigate Rodney Davis. The warship armed with cruise missiles reinforced the strike group of the U.S. military in the Pacific under the "America Rearmament" programme proclaimed by Reagan.

JOURNALISTS DISCUSS OPENNESS ON TELEBRIDGE

LD142220 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1818 GMT on 13 May carries a 68-minute program linking up studios in Moscow and San Francisco, with contributions from studios in Boston and Tbilisi, for a telebridge entitled "U.S.-USSR Spacebridge: The Role of the Media in Current Relations."

U.S. presenter Peter Jennings introduces panel journalists Stuart Lurie of CNN, Seymour Topping of THE NEW YORK TIMES, Elizabeth Tucker of THE WASHINGTON POST, and the audience of U.S. newspaper editors and students in San Francisco as well as students in Boston.

Soviet presenter Vladimir Pozner introduces panellists Aleksandr Shalnev of IZVESTIYA, Yuriy Shchekochikhin of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, and an audience of Moscow journalists as well as Tengiz Sul Khanishvili, a Georgian television journalist with an audience of journalists and students in Tbilisi.

Pozner says that the aim of the program is to improve mutual understanding. Jennings notes the differences that divide Soviet and U.S. journalists and hopes tht the program will help to overcome them.

Jennings starts the dialogue by asking: "Vladimir, Soviet participants and journalists, I must admit that when we were preparing the program, I and most of us had the overwhelming desire to ask you about openness as declared by Mr Gorbachev. I would like to ask Aleksandr Shalnev to answer this question first. Alex, what does it mean to you?"

"[Shalnev] You know, the problem lies in the fact that I am involved in the reporting of international news and I have spent the entire 20 years of my journalistic career in foreign news reporting. You certainly also know that openness appears mainly on the domestic front, mainly in the reporting of domestic events. As for openness in reporting international affairs, then it seems to me that although many problems that still exist and had existed here are being resolved, but some problems, nevertheless, remain. Peter, you recalled one very interesting thing. Your idea as Americans, your idea as American journalists is that all of us, the Soviet journalists, are exponents of the viewpoint of the USSR Government.

"It is partly so and it is difficult to contend with. But on the other hand, it is precisely through this phenomonon and precisely through this kind of a prism through which you observe us, that the work is becoming more difficult for us, because you will perceive any viewpoint we express as a viewpoint of the Soviet Government. Let us imagine such a situation: Let us say the Secretary of State Shultz is coming to Moscow and let us say that I say something that Mr Shultz might not like, or I express some kind of a viewpoint that differs strictly from what is expected, for example by the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as a result of this visit. You will perceive it as an expression of a viewpoint of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Government and the State Department will also perceive it this way. I also do not exclude the fact that a minor dialogue will be started between your State Department and our Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this lies the difficulty. All the same, you have to take into account the fact that we often express just our own viewpoint and therefore you must not see any word we uttered as exclusively the viewpoint of the Soviet Government.

"It is in this difficulty that the answer to the question lies of why openness has not yet entered reporting international affairs in such an active and, to be more precise, in such an intensive way as it has already entered and has actually gained a strong position in reporting internal affairs.

"As Aleksandr Bovin, our colleague from IZVESTIYA and our political observer, stated recently, he envies our internal affairs journalists, the journalists writing on domestic topics. He is envious because for them the work is nowadays considerably freer than for the international affairs journalists as a consequence of the reasons I already attempted to list, which is far from being exhausted."

Topping asks whether there is any likelihood of Gorbachev's openness policy being as shortlived as Khrushchev's liberalization was. Shalnev says: "With regard to your question about how long openness will continue, we would like to hope that it will continue indefinitely." Pozner asks whether the current U.S. interest in objective information about the USSR will also be shortlived.

Tengiz Sulkhanishvili says that openness has been under way in Georgia for many years and that he has long been involved in investigative journalism. Elizebeth Tucker asks him: "Tengiz, if I am not mistaken, a few years ago, Geydar Aliyev exerted no little effort in the fight against corruption in Georgia. This is an important theme in the Soviet Union today, and since you specialize as an investigative journalist, I decided to ask you some questions about how investigations are carried out. Can you choose an official whom you suspect of abuses and undertake an investigation to write material, or do you need special permission for this? Can you freely do what you want, or are there any obstacles?"

"[Sulkhanishvili] In Georgia there have been some trials that caused a stir, precisely on those problems you mentioned, Liz, and journalists were the most active people already in the courtroom.

"[Pozner] Tengiz, like every Georgian, is a very hospitable person, and very nice. This is why he did not react to the question in which it was said that Aliyev carried out investigations in Georgia.

"Aliyev was the first secretary of the Central Committee of Azerbaijan, and now, in Moscow, he is a member of the Politburo. For you, clearly Azerbaijan and Georgia, and perhaps Armenia too, are more or less the same thing. I would like to ask: Evidently the greater part of your audience hardly knows how many republics there are in the USSR, I think. Will it stay like this for long? When will we finally know each other just a little bit better?

"[Jennings] Let's continue with investigative journalism.

"[Shchekochikhin] You probably don't know properly. Our readers know it better. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA has undertaken such investigations for many, many, many years. Restructuring has come not in a desert, no. There was a strong foundation in journalism. A great deal of bitter things were written. It was a little harder to get things printed than today, but it was written about. There was an emotional explosion in the country when the article by my colleague Arkadiy Laksderg appeared about the mayor of Sochi. This is a very big town, the article was called Smokescreen. There were very many letters, and it was at a time when it was more dangerous to write than today.

"Today we have not yet finished investigating the history of Tengiz's neighboring Republic of Azerbaijan, where a militiaman acted against corruption, against bribery. He was arrested, handcuffed, taken far away. But he was freed. There was enormous mass support, enormous public support. By the way, this is the most important thing: My comrades and I carry on working, we did not leave journalism even in the most difficult times we had in the country.

"[Lurie] Excuse me, Yuriy, can I ask you something on this theme. I am delighted at the investigative journalism conducted by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA and by other organizations over many years, but my question concerns this: All these investigations were carried out at fairly low levels in Soviet society, at republic or city level. I am talking about the possibility of the existence of corruption in the highest circles. Would you carry out an investigation at this high level? Do you feel that you could carry it out at present?

"[Shchekochikhin] You know, we have one great formula now: there are no closed topics.

"[Pozner] I would like to support Yuriy when he says that Comrade Gorbachev said straight out that there are no people, and should be no people exempt from criticism. Naturally, any power protects itself, whether it is in the Soviet Union or in the United States. A journalist who tries to expose a person possessing great power comes up against problems in any country. I think that Stuart knows that as well as we do. But we are moving toward a situation in which in principle there are no bans, and anyone can be criticized, the more so if there are grounds for it. That's how it is."

The presenters say that it is time for the audience to ask some questions. The first comes from San Francisco:

"I am George Neville from Kansas. I would like to ask my Soviet colleagues a question about how they approach the problem of human rights in the USSR, particularly in view of the fact that as a result of the expansion of openness several political prisoners have been released. We are aware that many have still not been released. We are aware that the state of affairs with the emigration from the USSR of some representatives of national minorities and particularly Jews is in a very bad way. What are you doing in this area and how are you informing your readers about the state of affairs?

"[Pozner] Well, first of all we approach human rights differently from you."

Pozner goes on to ask what U.S. journalists are doing to ensure that everyone there has the right to work and then says: "Violations have taken place in our country. What you are now seeing is the rectification of these violations. You are seeing how a certain degree of democratization of the press is taking place on this matter. Television and newspapers, and consequently journalists, are playing an important role. When you say that you know that there are very many who are deprived of these rights, we cannot regard this very seriously because this is our question, they are our liberties, they are our rights, and, should this be the case, then it is our pain. But allow me to assure you that we are giving attention to this."

Jennings asks Shchekochikhin what his paper is doing in this area.

"[Shchekochikhin] You know, over the past year or year and a half our newspaper has been sharply criticizing the procuracy organs and the militia and the courts. Today we want to obtain guarantees that laws will be observed. That is the main thing for us." He says that the paper's reception office and letters department are every day inundated with requests for help with problems. "Today the newspapers have succeeded in getting a review of the criminal law. By the way, we approached the procuracy organs on many occasions about some people who have now been released."

The participants discuss the information available in the United States on the Soviet Union. Tucker says the situation could be improved. Topping says the quality of information is better than in the USSR. Pozner and Jennings display cartoons showing caricatures of life in the USSR and the United States. Shalnev says the tendency to show negative aspects of U.S. life is changing and that "positive elements are gradually and quite energetically being introduced into what we show the Soviet viewer and the Soviet reader about the United States."

A member of the San Francisco audience, Tom Brave from the DETROIT NEWS, says that coverage of the Afghan war is hindered by a threat made by a Soviet official some years ago that any reporter found with the Mujahidin would be shot. In a second question he asks how Soviet journalists report the other side's view. Dmitriy Zakharov of Moscow radio replies to the first point by citing various Westerners who have been captured in Afghanistan and immediately freed. He does not reply to the second question. He says that this telebridge has a Soviet audience of 150 to 200 million and asks what its U.S. audience is. Pozner later returns to this question saying that the Soviet audience is probably 120 to 150 million. Jennings says that because of the nature of the U.S. television system, the number watching this program will be smaller but will be very interested and well-informed.

Aleksandr Vyasilyani, director of the Georgian news agency asks why U.S. journalists refuse to admit that they are ideological workers and claim to be objective. He says that openness is really nothing new in the USSR. He talks at length about the investigative reporting of "Irangate" but says it has changed nothing, while Soviet openness always produces results. Topping refutes the notion that Soviet openness is not new and wonders whether Vyasilyani's utterances are not an expression of opposition to change. A New Brunswick journalist says that everyone reflects their environment but tries to determine their own ideology and to seek the truth.

The editor of the CAPE COD TIMES notes the large amount of space given to readers' letters in Soviet papers. "But it is a cause of concern that the readers' letters criticize only questions of domestic life. My question is whether openness will lead to the position when we will see criticism of foreign policy on the pages of the Soviet press."

"[Pozner] It seems to me that one cannot be critical of, say, domestic questions and not critical of foreign ones. Either there is criticism or there is no criticism. Undoubtedly we are moving in the direction of criticism."

Pozner then refers back to Topping's criticism of Vyasilyani and says: "What was said was not that openness had always existed; it was said that openness was laid down right at the start as the principle of the Soviet press in 1917. Indeed, this principle was not observed later. But it is not something new in the sense that it has just been thought up now." Pozner then introduces clips of Soviet television reports showing the rescue of Soviet seamen by the U.S. Coast Guard and the work of the U.S. magazine WORKING WOMAN to demonstrate positive Soviet reporting of the United States. The U.S. panelists welcome the showing of such material.

A Harvard student asks which particular aspects of openness have the greatest effect on people's everyday life. TASS correspondent Kiril Debrovo starts to say that aspects have a great influence on everyday life but particularly the economic changes; Pozner interrupts to say that time is running out. Pozner expresses the hope that the program will have beneficial results and suggests an exchange of Soviet and U.S. television and newspaper journalists. New forms of cooperation are needed. Jennings hopes that the program has helped to promote mutual understanding.

PRC PARTICIPATION IN SPACE PROGRAM ENCOURAGED

OW160947 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0600 GMT 15 May 87

[Mulatov commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear Chinese listeners: The Soviet Union maintains that the program to further broaden the peaceful development of space is of great significance. Gorbachev underscored this in his speech to representatives of work collectives at the Baykonour Cosmodrome and in Leninsk on 13 May. [passage omitted] Station observer Mulatov comments:

The Soviet Union is willing to cooperate with all countries concerned on the peaceful development of space. Prospects for cooperation between two socialist countries in this field are bright. Dear Chinese listeners, I would like to remind you of Gorbachev's proposal to China in this respect in his notable speech delivered last July in Vladivostok. The training of Chinese cosmonauts was mentioned in the proposed cooperation plan.

We all know that the Soviet Union has already accumulated substantial experience in the space exploration program involving cosmonauts from European and Asian socialist countries and from Cuba. Indian and French cosmonauts have also taken part in some joint programs in the peaceful development of space. A Syrian cosmonaut is now training in the Soviet Union.

The peaceful development of space is a correct and reliable choice that runs counter to the policy of military use of space advocated by the United States and its allies. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has stressed the peaceful use of space in his proposal to the broad international community. It has had warm, worldwide response. We oppose the global arms race, including that in space.

Dear Chinese listeners, you all know that the Washington administration's so-called SDI is aimed at extending the arms race to space. The U.S. ruling clique hopes to hoodwink the American people as well as the world by arguing that the purpose of SDI is to prevent a nuclear strike. In fact, the imperialist strategists have deemed the creation of a space weapon as a trump card in their strategy for strength. Banking on participation by Japan and certain other allies, they are striving to seek military and strategic superiority over the Soviet Union and the socialist countries through the militarization of space. [passage omitted]

It is a correct and reliable choice for countries concerned to counter the space militarization policy of the United States and its allies by forging cooperation in the peaceful development of space. The Soviet Union wishes to call the attention of world public opinion on this matter. Soviet leader Comrade Gorbachev has pledged that the Soviet Union will continue to work for a better international situation.

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER CHERNAVIN VISITS DPRK

PM161345 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 May 87 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Official Visit"]

[Text] Fleet Admiral V.N. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy and USSR deputy defense minister, left Moscow for Pyongyang 10 May at the invitation of the DPRK minister of the People's Armed Forces.

Fleet Adm V.N. Chernavin was seen off at the airport by Marshal of Aviation A.N. Yefimov, commander in chief of the Air Force and USSR deputy defense minister, and other admirals and officers. Yi Tu-yol, DPRK charge d'affaires in the USSR, and Major General Kim Hak-san, military, naval, and air attache at the DPRK Embassy in the USSR, were among the send-off party.

Pyongyang, 11 May -- Fleet Adm V.N. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy and USSR Deputy Defense Minister, has arrived in the DPRK on an official visit.

He was met at the airport by Colonel General Pak Chung-kuk, DPRK deputy minister of the people's armed forces, and Admiral Kim Il-ch ol, commander of the DPRK Navy.

Meets Army Chief

PM161341 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 May 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Meeting in Pyongyang"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 14 May -- Fleet Admiral V.N. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy and USSR deputy defense minister, who is on an official visit to the DPRK, has been received by Army General O Kuk-yol, member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Politburo and chief of the Korean People's Army General Staff.

Yesterday Fleet Adm V.I. Chernavin visited Mangyongdae and the Museum of Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

Meets Kim Il-song

PM181512 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 May 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Meeting in Pyongyang"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 15 May -- Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and president of the DPRK, received Fleet Admiral V.N. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy and deputy defense minister of the USSR, who is in the DPRK on an official visit.

Taking part in the meeting were Army General O Kuk-yol, member of the WPK Central Committee Politburo and chief of the Korean People's Army General Staff, and Admiral Kim Il-chol, commander of the DPRK Navy.

MOSCOW ON POSSIBILITY OF JOINT OLYMPICS SITES

SK150955 Moscow International Service in Korean 1330 GMT 13 May 87

[Article by unidentified reporter of SOVETSKIY SPORT on the 92d session of the International Olympic Committee held in Istanbul]

[Text] Regardless of the topics under discussion, the International Olympic Committee [IOC] session is really talking about the need to strengthen trust and cooperation and to bring different views and stands closer together. The most striking example of this is the debate about the possibility of simultaneously holding the 1988 Olympics in the North and South of the Korean peninsula. This is a unique situation, but the Olympic dialogue continues between the DPRK and the South Korean sports organizations; this fact inspires optimism.

The fourth round of talks between the two sides of the North and South is scheduled to be held in Lausanne in the middle of July with the participation of the IOC. Prior to this, an IOC delegation led by Romanian representative Alexandru Sipercu will visit Pyongyang to inspect existing sports facilities and those under construction and reach an authoritative conclusion on the possibility of holding some of the events of the 24th Olympics there.

The games are approaching quickly, technical problems are gradually beginning to come to the fore. National Olympics committees must submit applications for participation in the next Olympics before 17 January 1988, and many international federations must announce their positions even earlier, by 17 September 1987. This is because sports facilities must be accepted exactly 1 year before the games. Matters concerning coordination of schedules, organization of television transmission, transferring athletes and tourists from Pyongyang to Seoul and back, distribution of revenue from the games, and many other subjects should be tackled immediately.

Qualifying competitions are already under way in some sports events. This is certain to affect the situation. For example, the International Football Association Federation [FIFA] plans to hold the Olympic soccer group play-offs in Pyongyang. As is known, the hosts automatically qualifies for the final stages of the competition. On that basis, the DPRK soccer team did not participate in a qualifying match. However, FIFA, in view of the DPRK's prior application, disqualified the team.

This event has been discussed informally at the recent meeting. Most observers agree that although one should not cavil at FIFA's actions, FIFA might have displayed greater understanding of the situation.

Bridges, by their very nature, are valuable. Needless to say, one should be particularly protective of bridges which are under construction.

Mention must be made here of the forces which appear to be making a deliberate attempt to test the strength of something that has not yet been fully built. The IOC session received a unique gift from someone who is not an Olympic figure at all -- U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger. REUTER reported from Washington that he met with his South Korean colleague and, in accordance with his colleague's opinion, discussed specific measures to protect against possible acts of terrorism directed at the Seoul Olympics from North Korea. The tone of Weinberger's pronouncement was extremely proprietary, as if Seoul were adjacent to California.

Naturally, the warriors were asked whether they had consulted with the leaders of the Olympic movement, Yi Ki-paek said no. But Weinberger was quick to add that he was convinced that the IOC would approve his proposal. The news conference held by Pak Se-chik, chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the 1988 Olympics, showed that this was not the case. He said that no outside help was needed to maintain order at the Olympics. Reporters asked many questions about the continuous unrest of students in Seoul. It seems to me that few people there were satisfied with the answer of the chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Olympics that excess in political activity has always been a characteristic of young people.

MAKEYEV-LED AUCCTU DELEGATION ATTENDS MPR CONGRESS

PM150926 Moscow TRUD in Russian 12 May 87 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Delegation's Departure"]

[Text] A Soviet trade union delegation headed by AUCCTU secretary V.N. Makeyev left Moscow for Ulaanbaatar 11 May to take part in the 13th Mongolian Trade Unions Congress.

MPR's Batmonh Receives Group

PM181510 Moscow TRUD in Russian 15 May 87 p 3

[Special correspondent Yu. Medvedskiy report under the general heading "Exactly, in a Businesslike Way: The 13th Mongolian Trade Unions Congress Continues Its Work in Ulaanbaatar"]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 14 May -- J. Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Mongolian People's Great Hural Presidium, today received the Soviet trade union delegation headed by AUCCTU secretary V.N. Makeyev.

They exchanged opinions on questions of the further development of the traditional friendship and all-around cooperation of the Mongolian and Soviet trade unions.

The Soviet trade union delegation, together with other foreign delegations, visited a knitwear factory in Ulaanbaatar.

Batmonh 'Supports' USSR Plans

LD141343 Moscow TASS in English 0940 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, May 14 TASS -- Speaking at the 13th Congress of Mongolian Trade Unions, under way here, Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the central committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of Mongolia, said that the Soviet programme for nuclear-free world, the largest in its scale and historic in its importance, as well as the programme for guaranteeing security through disarmament indicate the way to saving mankind from the threat of self-destruction. "Our party and people," he noted, "fully approve and support the new Soviet initiatives on complete elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe, as well as the proposals on shorter-range missiles, armed forces and armaments in Europe, which were put forth by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. We are confident that realization of this major move is of great military and political importance for East-West relations and also for strengthening peace and stability in the Asian and Pacific region."

PRAVDA MARKS VISIT OF CPV'S NGUYEN VAN LINH

PM181317 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 May 87 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the rubric "For the Visit to the Soviet Union": "Nguyen Van Linh, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee"]

[Excerpts] Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, arrives in Moscow today on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. [passage omitted]

Holding high party posts, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh devotes all his energy, knowledge, and experience to building socialism in Vietnam and defending the Vietnamese people's revolutionary gains.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh is known in the Soviet Union as a staunch fighter for the cause of Vietnam's national independence and freedom and as proven leader who enjoys great authority in the party and the country.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh has repeatedly visited the Soviet Union. He makes an active contribution to developing and strengthening fraternal Soviet-Vietnamese friendship.

Soviet Communists and the entire Soviet people warmly hail the official friendly visit to the USSR of Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and express confidence that this visit will give an important new boost to the further deepening and development of all-around Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation in the interests of the two countries' peoples and of the cause of peace and socialism.

ANDRIANOV SEES U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN FIJI COUP

LD180949 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0030 GMT 18 May 87

[Boris Andrianov commentary]

[Text] It is reported from Helsinki that the World Peace Council has issued a statement in which it says that the military coup in Fiji is similar to those that have taken place in Chile, Grenada, and a number of other countries. At the microphone is Boris Andrianov:

The signature of the Fiji coup is indeed well known to the world public. (?Well known, too) is the hand that is implicated in political changes in this island state in the South Pacific, as the British newspaper NEWS ON SUNDAY comments today. It notes in particular that when the plot was still being planned, Vernon Walters, a former deputy director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, was in Fiji. He was closely observing the course of the elections held in that country a month ago. Was this an idle occupation on the part of a seasoned U.S. intelligence man, reputed to be a great expert in coups d'etat in countries whose policy is not to the liking of official Washington? In the interests of truth it must be said that Walters was in Fiji as permanent U.S. representative at the United Nations; yet I assume that the Western press is not mistaken in thinking that even in his present capacity, this Washington diplomat is still working at his old speciality.

The same thought is prompted by the question that the ancient Romans would ask when there was talk of some socio-political change of a violent nature: Who benefits? Who stands to gain something from the coup in Fiji? To answer that question, it is enough to recall how nervously the Washington administration reacted to the Fiji Government's antinuclear policy that came into effect last month. The previous, pro-Western cabinet allowed U.S. ships with nuclear weapons on board to call at the country's ports, while the new had promised to put an end to that practice. But now, after the coup, Washington is not worried. It is reported that there is no alarm there about the situation in Fiji, since, quote, there is now no threat to the security of U.S. citizens, unquote, who are on the territory of this island state.

Incidentally, according to an eyewitness by NEWS ON SUNDAY, U.S. citizens took part in the coup in Fiji. So, evidently Washington has indeed no further cause for concern. On the other hand, the latest events in Fiji have aroused serious concern in broad circles of the antinuclear public of the countries of the South Pacific. After all, the government of Fiji, together with other states of the Pacific Forum, signed in August 1985 a treaty envisaging the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific. Therefore, according to Washington's designs, the coup in Fiji is supposed to (?fit into) the collective security system being formed in that part of our world.

SLYUNKOV SEES SOKOLOV OFF ON TRIP TO HUNGARY

LD191002 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0801 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] At the invitation of Karpati, minister of defense of the Hungarian People's Republic, Comrade Sokolov, Marshal of the Soviet Union, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defence, left Moscow today for Budapest on an official friendly visit. At the airport he was seen off by Comrade Slyunkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and Central Committee secretary, and other officials.

FURTHER ON DEMICHEV ACTIVITIES IN BULGARIA

Meeting With Zhivkov

PM181437 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In Bulgaria"]

[Text] Sofia, 15 May — T. Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, today received the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation that is in the country, headed by P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

During the meeting, which proceeded in the spirit of sincerity and friendship characteristic of relations between the two parties, states, and peoples, the sides discussed issues relating to the internal restructuring which is gathering momentum in the USSR and Bulgaria in the wake of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 13th BCP Congress. They noted the similarity between the problems engendered by this essentially revolutionary process and also the ways to resolve them.

T. Zhivkov stressed Bulgaria's determination to continue to strengthen relations of cooperation with the USSR and noted that the Bulgarian party and state leadership and all the Bulgarian people fully support the course taken by Lenin's party aimed at restructuring, the acceleration of economic development, and the expansion of democracy.

P.N. Demichev informed the Bulgarian party and state leaders on progress made in restructuring in the USSR, pointing out that the January (1987) CPSU Central Committee Plenum made this process irreversible.

A reception was given in the evening at the USSR Embassy in Bulgaria in honor of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation.

Varna Tour

LD181439 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 May 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Soviet Parliamentarians in Bulgaria"]

[Text] Sofia, 15 May — The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which is on an official friendly visit to Bulgaria, has arrived in Varna.

The Soviet guests met with the leaders of Varna Okrug, who familiarized the delegation with the region's dynamic development, the improvement of the tourist industry and the services sphere, the cooperation between the twinned cities of Varna and Odessa, and the direct ties between the district and Odessa Oblast.

The delegation visited the Varna Maritime Hydrodynamics Institute. Its director, P. Bogdanov, talked about the collective's solutions to complex theoretical and practical tasks in the sphere of water transportation and the construction of maritime and river installations. The institute's successes are graphic testimony to the effective utilization of the latest equipment and technologies, precise labor organization, and the growing cooperation with Soviet scientific research institutes.

Working people at the Lyaskovets Agro-Industrial Complex -- one of the country's front-ranking farms -- warmly greeted the Soviet parliamentarians. The delegation members familiarized themselves with advanced farm administration methods.

The Soviet guests visited the Wheat and Sunflower Scientific Research Institute in the city of General Toshevo. P.N. Demichev and the delegation members showed interest in cooperation between Bulgarian breeders and their Soviet partners.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation returned to Sofia today.

Departure, Return to Moscow

PM181421 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 May 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit Over"]

[Text] Sofia, 16 May -- The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, left here today following an official friendly visit to Bulgaria.

S. Todorov, member of the Politburo of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian National Assembly, and other officials accompanied the delegation to the airport.

Among the send-off party was USSR Ambassador to Bulgaria L.I. Grekov.

The delegation headed by P.N. Demichav returned to Moscow the same day. It included the following deputies: I.G. Grintsov, A.A. Logunov, V.A. Perttunen, L.Kh. Rasulova, and B.E. Saul.

The delegation was met at the airport by B.N. Yeltsin, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom; L.N. Tolkunov and A.E. Boss, respective chairmen of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet; T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet; V.P. Loginov, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, and other officials.

Among the reception party was I. Radonov, Bulgarian charge d'affaires ad interim in the USSR.

JARUZELSKI INTERVIEWED ON USSR TIES, PPR AFFAIRS

LD161147 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1850 GMT 15 May 87

[Interview with Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish State Council "for Soviet television" to political observer Valeriy Korzin; date and place not specified; video shows Jaruzelski and Korzin seated in a room; Jaruzelski speaks in Polish with superimposed Russian translation -- recorded]

[Text] [Korzin] Esteemed Comrade Jaruzelski, first I would like to thank you for finding time for this meeting even though you are very busy. Once again, a very large thank you.

You know that in our country it is normal to address one another using our names and patronymics, so, bearing in mind that this is an interview for Soviet television, perhaps you will allow us to use names and patronymics.

[Jaruzelski] Certainly. I like this form of address very much. It is so cordial.

[Korzin] Wojciech Vladislavovich, the idea for this interview arose when you were in Moscow, when, together with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, you signed the Soviet-Polish Cooperation Declaration -- ideological, scientific, and cultural cooperation -- and, in this context I would like to ask you how you personally evaluate this document? What is its significance?

[Jaruzelski] I consider this document to be of historic significance. It gives greater acceleration to our building on our cooperation. Cooperation will be significantly deeper and broader. This also means enrichment in the Leninist spirit of the style of interaction between our parties. And this document is not to be reduced only and exclusively to matters of science, culture, and ideology; it is broader in scope. It also deals with the base. At the present time this is extraordinarily important and necessary, because economic integration and cooperation is implemented among human beings. The better people know and understand each other, the more effectively they will cooperate in the sphere of the economy. Thus we have before us a certain all-embracing quality in activities. The declaration ought to be understood in conjunction with those major cooperation tasks which are being implemented by our parties, our countries and our peoples.

I feel that it is not my own personal evaluation of this document which is of particular importance -- I of course evaluate it very highly -- but how the Polish public evaluates and receives it. Our people received the declaration with great interest and with complete approval. In my view, in this lies the best guarantee of the declaration facilitating the strengthening of our cooperation and the consolidation of our friendship. I am convinced that People's Poland is, should be, and will be, both today and tomorrow, an attractive and reliable partner and friend of the Soviet Union.

[Korzin] Much space in this document is devoted to the work of journalists. It says that the press can do much to ensure that both the Soviet and Polish peoples know more about each other. One may say that this interview, which will be shown on Soviet television, is in fact a realization of the tasks mapped out in the declaration.

[Jaruzelski] Television and journalists constitute an enormous force, a kind of power. If they have actively dealt with this matter, then without doubt it has been of great use for the cause. I am very pleased at having the opportunity to converse with you on this uncommonly important subject.

[Korzin] Economic cooperation, within the framework of the whole socialist community, is reaching a qualitatively new level. New forms of cooperation are being sought. Here and there things have been discovered, like direct contacts, joint ventures; something else will still probably be opened up. I would like to ask what you regard as being most promising in this direction?

[Jaruzelski] First, it is worth stressing that such concepts as restructuring in the Soviet Union and the socialist renewal in Poland, which are so well-known and important today, inevitably exert an influence on the state of mutual relations. These are not only internal categories. In undertaking the processes of restructuring and renewal, one has to include everything taking place in relations between our countries. Prospects for these relations are real.

As far as economic cooperation is concerned -- as I understand it, this is of most interest to you -- we have of course made great achievements over the past 42 years. This cooperation is particularly valuable for us, for Poland, both during the period when the Soviet Union helped us, came out to meet us with our problems and difficulties, and at the time when cooperation became mutually advantageous. I believe that particularly favorable conditions for its development have arisen at the present time -- or, more correctly, not just conditions but the necessity for the development of cooperation, is becoming an important feature of the present historical stage. It is not enough today simply to sum up our efforts. This sum total creates new supreme qualities, the synergistic effect, as they say. We therefore see great reserves here.

Cooperation in the economic field can be measured by both scale and quality. As far as scale is concerned, we are satisfied; we are pleased with the fact that our economic relations with the Soviet Union and with all our socialist partners have been widened considerably over the past few years as a consequence of reorientation. We are continuing to move in this direction. At the same time it appears that more ought to be done in the area of the quality of this cooperation. From that point of view it is still quite poor. Here I am thinking of the unsatisfactory scale of coproduction. Coproduction within our cooperation amounts to about 5 percent of goods turnover, and if one takes into account specialization, too, then altogether this amounts to about 20 percent. Here we see large reserves which it will be possible to use when cooperation between enterprises and between scientific research establishments fully develops and when joint enterprises are set up. In a word, when cooperation widely embraces the lower links and when it is rid of unnecessary bureaucratic ballast.

We are embarking on this road. Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's approach to this issue is extremely valuable. This, too, was discussed at the November meeting of general and first secretaries in Moscow. There are some interesting and reassuring results from these links. A lot of Soviet and Polish enterprises and institutes are already cooperating with each other. We are watching very closely the development of direct links. The PZPR Politburo examined this issue on two occasions with the involvement of representatives of those enterprises which are cooperating with corresponding works in the Soviet Union. I am convinced that the prospects here are very valuable.

[Korzin] Don't you have the feeling that some economic leaders are accepting the establishment of direct links and the expansion of coproduction as the latest fashionable trend, and are trying to report that another agreement has been concluded, but that that's where their labors end, generally speaking?

[Jaruzelski] That troubles me, but it does not surprise me, for it is a manifestation of the struggle between the new and the old, which takes place at this stage. Indeed, there are subjective barriers which stem from old habits and from conservatism. There are three possible reasons for conservatism. One is that of habit; the second is the conviction that what happened before is always right; and the third -- and this is the worst -- is the fact that people have an interest in holding on to old positions because that is more advantageous from different points of view. That has to be broken.

You have probably read Ilya Erenburg's "The Self-Seeker," in which the main hero says that it doesn't matter how many rabbits there are on a given farm, what matters is how many rabbits there are on paper. I think that some of our economic chiefs think in a similar way. For them, the most important thing is paper, and we have to overcome this or, to put it in military terms, to unblock the resistance that it concealed in the subjective sphere. But there are also objective reasons, and in this matter a sober approach is needed. The thing is, for cooperation, certain economic mechanisms have to mature within the CEMA framework. They are leading today to the fact that it is still difficult for us to find a common denominator, for example, on the very complex pricing questions. We are currently working on this. Yes, it's very complex, and a lot is now being done on this issue to change the existing situation. Naturally this will require great effort, but I believe it will be successful. We have to overcome that problem, too.

[Korzin] As they say, the person who wants to solve a question works on it, but the person who doesn't looks for difficulties.

[Jaruzelski] Yes, there's a Russian proverb, which I will say in Russian: If you don't know how to do it, we'll teach you; if you don't want to do it, we'll make you!

[Korzin] Yes, that's one of our proverbs.

[Jaruzelski] That's what we should be guided by.

[Korzin] Wojciech Vladislavovich, may I ask you a few questions about life in Poland. The 10th PZPR Congress adopted a broad program of social and economic development and the strengthening of internal political stabilization. Naturally the program is designed for a long period, and less than a year has passed since the congress. Nevertheless, what has it been able to do, and what hasn't been possible?

[Jaruzelski] I consider that progress has been achieved in all areas, though it is not uniform. It has been achieved to a more considerable degree in the political sphere, in the sphere of the superstructure. We have managed to make a serious advance in perfecting the functioning of our state and broadening and enriching socialist democracy. We have also managed to achieve a great deal on the path of national concord. I know that you observed the work of the second Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth [PRON] Congress. We achieved a better mutual understanding with various circles of our public opinion.

As you know, a very important question in Poland is the relation between the state and the church. It is thought that in the recent period, for all its complexity and contradictions, some progress has been achieved. The chances of involving the church in constructive cooperation for the common good, for the good of the country, are growing.

A great success of the recent period is the considerable activization of Poland on the international scene. Naturally that goes for the traditional contacts between the socialist countries, but there is also increased activity in other areas. At the same time, the processes of implementing the decisions of the 10th congress in the economic sphere are moving more slowly. In a certain sense that is natural. The economy has its barriers and its laws; moreover, our economy is burdened by various difficulties, including those that have evolved historically. They have accumulated, and as a result we now feel them with particular acuteness. Even so, I believe we are moving forward too slowly, and there are reasons for this, objective and subjective.

I don't mean by this that there is no progress in the economic sphere. Despite everything, the national income is rising. Industrial production last year grew by 5 percent. The harvest was a record. We succeed in carrying through an important stage in the rationalization of prices. But despite this, there is concern over the still high level of inflation, the insufficient volume of exports, the low rate of housing construction and of satisfaction of other social needs which we are not succeeding in bringing about to the degree we desire, a degree which corresponds with the intentions of our party and our socialist state.

[Korzin] During the short time we have been here, we have noted the positive changes that have taken place: More goods have appeared in the shops, more food, and overall the mood of the people whom we meet has improved. Yet nevertheless the difficulties that are still present are noticeable.

[Jaruzelski] Yes, the way people feel is of course linked to an enormous extent with living conditions. For an overwhelming part of our society these conditions are difficult. They have deteriorated by comparison with the seventies. However, this is a consequence of the fact that then, unfortunately, we were to some extent living on credit. We are now feeling the consequences of this situation extremely acutely. We are therefore doing everything possible to ensure that the economy functions in a rational way and to rely primarily on the things that are our own gains, on our own possibilities. This requires great and very persistent efforts.

[Korzin] It is now expected that the draft second stage of the economic reform will be put forward for general discussion in your country: The first stage covered the previous 5 years. Could you briefly describe the main purport of the second state of the reform?

[Jaruzelski] The second stage of the reform, as the name indicates, is a continuation, so to speak, of the first stage, the raising of its level. In short, therefore, one can say that this is the consistent and I would say radical implementation of the basic points of the reform. The reform which we began to implement at the beginning of 1982 was in the first place under the burden of the difficulties of that period, with all the problems that had to be solved, both economic and political. One can say, therefore, that so far it has been working at half speed. The effect it has produced has only been half-and-half. Now the time has come for all mechanisms to function fully, for them to get working in full measure.

Of course this is not an easy matter, for it is going to be linked with strict observance of economic rules. But the economy is not going to cheat the economic laws. For if you cheat today you have to pay the price tomorrow. This is something we have felt extremely painfully. This is why discussion by the people is now being carried out, the task of which is to provide an answer to the main question: Do we move more quickly or more slowly? Talking about the second stage of the reform I would also like to stress that the difficulties we had to fight against led to a situation in which, figuratively speaking, we were using artificial limbs of one kind or another. Everyone knows that you don't go far using an artificial leg.

[Korzin] It makes living difficult.

[Jaruzelski] It makes living difficult. It's a question of throwing away this artificial limb and beginning a normal, healthy life. What the second stage of the reform amounts to is this; it means going over to the highest, economically more rational process. At the same time this has some very important social and economic aspects. It is a question of implanting in the working people, more deeply than before, an awareness of the fact that they are the genuine masters at their enterprise, the masters of what they earn and what they achieve, that there are not going to be any rescue measures, and that first and foremost they are going to have to earn their own keep. I regard this feeling of being a master who is also the coauthor of decisions and who is responsible for their fulfillment, for the job in hand, as the key issue -- not just within the sphere of the economy but within the whole functioning of our socialist state and our socialist democracy.

[Korzin] It is very important that this should be done not in words, but in real terms, in action.

[Jaruzelski] Yes. Words evaporate, they are transient. But action is real.

[Korzin] Speaking about the economic situation in Poland, it is impossible not to recall the great damage done through the imposition of economic sanctions by Western countries, and above all, by the United States. It now appears that in Washington they understood that these sanctions failed to achieve the results for which they had been striving, and they revoked the sanctions.

[Jaruzelski] Yes, indeed, these sanctions -- or, as we call them, restrictions -- caused great economic damage. We evaluate this at approximately \$15 billion. This damage was caused above all to society, to every Polish family. Indeed, the West understood that it would not achieve its political aims in this way, that it would not force Poland to its knees. For this reason, these sanctions have now, formally, been removed. I do not say formally in a casual manner because in fact discrimination against our country in the sense of normal economic, commercial, and financial relations persists. The West is still attempting to give us marks for our behavior. We are not schoolchildren and will not accept such marks. We will go along our own socialist path. We have to take into account that it will be necessary to overcome various difficulties which are created for us. But at the same time I hope that circles in the West that think realistically will concede that such an approach to Poland, in the long term, leads to stalemate, and that it is necessary to put an end to this discrimination, to renounce it.

[Korzin] Another question is linked with the one on sanctions. For a long time, the West has sought, and indeed is seeking now, to portray Poland as some kind of closed society where all civilian rights are suppressed.

[Jaruzelski] They do indeed say that Poland is a closed country. This evaluation is the West's specific contribution to the history of surrealism. That is how it is. Probably you know that they call Hollywood the factory of dreams and reveries. It may be said that the Free Europe radio station and part of the Western press constitute a factory of falsifications, of a variety of rubbish, false information.

In recent years Poland has found itself in the front line under the attacks of imperialism. They wanted to turn our country into a kind of test site for the struggle with socialism. They wanted in this way to inflict casualties on our whole community. I consider the most effective weapons against such falsifications to be openness [glasnost] and truth. In such a case the foe can only chew over that information which we supply. As they say: A lie has short legs. We feel that it will be increasingly less effective, although one has to bear in mind that bourgeois propaganda will not lay off attempts to poison the knowledge of people, both in our country and in the West. To be precise, they will frighten people about communism, and frighten them with, in particular, socialism in Poland. But what of it? We have often gone through these stages -- it is a form of psychological, propagandist aggression. Like any form of aggression, sooner or later it will fail.

[Korzin] If one is to talk about the Western voices, the name of the Solidarity association continues to be glimpsed there. They often say that this is a former association -- even these voices that are hostile to us -- though on the other hand the press does carry interviews and statements by former Solidarity leaders. Do they represent any real force today?

[Jaruzelski] First, Solidarity of itself is a broad and complicated manifestation. In its day it was millions of people, honest people, who under the influence of mistakes and under the influence of distortions of different kinds found themselves in this organization. But the reins of control were seized by antisocialist, counterrevolutionary forces which led it in a dangerous direction. The majority of former Solidarity members are people dedicated to the cause of socialism, including our comrades in the trade unions.

But the bosses about whom you were talking -- what can one say? I have too much respect for the word general, and in this case I'm not very keen on using it, but I can't find anything more suitable: They are generals without an army. True, they do have their adjutants, their orderlies, their troubadours, but effectively they have no army. The best proof of this is provided by the fact that when they have made efforts of various kinds and issued calls of different kinds, the public has not supported them. They issued a call for the elections to be boycotted. The election boycott failed. They called for strikes when the decision was made to raise prices. Not one single strike took place. Recently, on the eve of May Day, they tried to organize a May Day counterdemonstration, and that ended in failure.

[Korzin] I've been told that nearly 10 million people took part in the May Day demonstrations.

[Jaruzelski] Yes, it was an impressive demonstration, with a record number of participants. There had never been so many before. Even when there were no political problems in our country there were fewer participants in the May Day demonstration. And that is quite significant.

[Korzin] But there is another side, too. Quite recently there was a report that a smuggler had been arrested on the Polish border. He was carrying radiotransmitters and duplicating equipment, in other words the kind of things that clandestine groupings of

various kinds usually equip themselves with. In the West they often talk about the existence of an underground opposition. Does such a thing exist? And if it does, what is it like?

[Jaruzelski] Were it not for the fact that adults would appear to take part in this, were it not a fact that we are talking about major sums of cash, I would reply: Well, if it keeps the children quiet -- but this is a matter of incitement and support of different kinds from the West and the United States. These people could have emerged from the so-called underground on more than one occasion. Amnesties have been declared. They haven't faced any threat. But they have not availed themselves of this opportunity, and that benefits them because in drawing attention to their pseudoheroism and their conspiracy they are able to get large handouts. That's where the dollars come from and it is possible to live comfortably in that kind of underground. It does not worry us particularly. We do not want to engage in making martyrs or in turning them into martyrs. To a certain extent these issues are monitored by us. It is not so much a political problem but rather a problem for the police.

[Korzin] Thank you. The second PRON Congress ended recently. What can you say about the results of this congress?

[Jaruzelski] This was a major event in the life of our country. PRON is a broad front of people with a varied world outlook, often with a view of different issues which differs from ours. But these people are united by a supreme goal, the well-being of the country, the real, socialist Poland. We think that this form, or formula, of PRON is very suitable for the present transient stage in the current building of socialism in Poland. It enables people with different ideas to be attracted and to be united for the common cause. The latest congress was a demonstration of that. At the same time it opened the start of a new stage. The program adopted, in my opinion, is extremely constructive. The congress also showed that PRON is a serious force which will continue its activity for the benefit of the people and socialist Poland. Our Party has great respect for the movement, and plays its characteristic role in the movement.

[Korzin] Our talk is taking place in May, the month that the last war ended. I know that you, too, fought. Can you remember where you were and how you felt on the very last day of the war?

[Jaruzelski] A question like that always gives me a certain kind of misgiving. I wouldn't want my answer to sound like how the general of today, First Secretary Jaruzelski, thought at the time he was a lieutenant, because there is a likelihood that the general of today will idealize the thinking of the lieutenant he was then, and present him as a wiser person than he was at the time. I imagine that at that time I simply thought how good it was that I survived, that I was alive, that the war was over, and that I had returned to my homeland. Those were my chief thoughts, although I probably also thought that there would never be another war. But unfortunately the threat of war has not disappeared. For my generation the war was a historic, extremely bitter and extremely vivid lesson which deeply convinced us that we must struggle for peace.

Permit me to take this opportunity, in connection with your question, to convey the most cordial greetings to Soviet war veterans, our friends in combat. I address those words in particular to those who liberated my homeland and who fought in the ranks of the national Polish Army. I have many sincere friends among them, and perhaps some of them are watching and listening to our conversation. I will be happy if they can receive my greetings.

[Korzin] Forty-two years have passed since then, yet the word war still remains in our vocabulary, just as the threat to peace remains a real one, and you, as a person who

went through the war, probably sense that threat with particular acuteness. Probably that has also been reflected in the plan for arms reduction and the strengthening of trust in the nine countries in Central Europe?

[Jaruzelski] Naturally that has to be a thought in one's mind. That initiative is one of the elements in the peace advance by the socialist countries. It is in keeping with the proposal Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is putting forward so persistently. It may turn out to be attractive and useful, for it contains certain new elements and new ideas. Of particular note is its comprehensive nature, since it brings together problems of nuclear disarmament in conventional weapons, and confidence-building measures. I am hopeful that our Western partners will approach our proposals realistically. At the same time I should like to take this opportunity, through you, to thank Soviet television, which I know has given wide coverage to that initiative.

[Korzin] In conclusion I would like to return once again to your recent meeting with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. You have several times stressed the coincidence of aims and tasks in restructuring sociopolitical and economic lives of our countries. Can it be considered that the meeting held in Moscow was another stage in the coordination of the joint efforts by the Soviet Union and Poland in that area, and also in the sphere of international relations?

[Jaruzelski] Without doubt, yes, and we did in fact speak about this to some degree at the start of our conversation. All my meetings with Mikhail Sergeyevich -- of which there have been several to date, and they have been long ones -- I appreciate very highly. I appreciate them for their frankness [otkrovennost], their broadness, their trust. I am greatly impressed by Mikhail Sergeyevich's personality, his boldness and perspicacity, and by all his initiatives. I am very grateful that his attitude to our party and to the Polish people is so warm and friendly. We keep closely in touch with one another, and also in telephone contact when necessary. It was in that spirit that we held our recent meeting. I am sure that it will promote the further development of our cooperation and the strengthening of friendship, moreover at a considerably higher level.

I should also like to note that our meeting coincided favorably in time with, on the one hand, the anniversary of the signing of the Polish-Soviet Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Aid Treaty, and on the other hand, the 70th anniversary year of the Great October Socialist Revolution. It could be said in that connection that it was our modest contribution to the great, common, internationalist cause. I am sure that by following that path together and strengthening our friendship and cooperation we will be true to the behests of the Great October Revolution. We will advance in a Leninist way, precisely in the spirit of restructuring, the spirit of renewal.

[Korzin] Wojciech Vladislavovich, our conversation is drawing to a close. What would you like to wish the Soviet people?

[Jaruzelski] First, I should like to express my profound respect for your great and heroic people, whom I think I know well. I understand their thoughts and aspirations. I saw them in the most difficult time, and am aware of the historic role the Soviet Union is playing, of how it is laying down the path toward progress, the influence that it has on the destiny of peace, first and foremost on the defense of peace throughout the world. For this reason I hope from the bottom of my heart that this new stage, the stage of restructuring, which is the continuation of the great achievements of the 7 decades of Soviet power, the development of socialism, will bring truly revolutionary transformations, and that new, historic heights will be scaled. Knowing the staunchness, persistence, and self-sacrifice of your people, knowing the wisdom of your leadership and the energy of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, I am sure that this great task will be fulfilled.

It is the task of the Soviet Union and of the whole world of socialism and all progressive forces. It is our joint chance for success, and we are very glad that we are in the same mainstream of transformations, renewal, restructuring, and acceleration. We wish the Communist Party and all the Soviet people full success in that task, and I believe that it will be accomplished. In addition I would like simply at a human level to wish Soviet people, our friends, strong health, personal happiness and all the very, very best. Goodbye, dear friends!

[Korzin] Thank you very much for such a detailed and meaningful conversation.

[Jaruzelski] Thank you.

CPSU IDEOLOGICAL DELEGATION ENDS VISIT TO POLAND

PM181609 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Interparty Cooperation"]

[Text] A delegation of CPSU ideological workers headed by Yu.A. Sklyarov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and chief of the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Department, visited Poland 11 through 14 May at the invitation of the PZPR Central Committee.

The delegation held conversations at the PZPR Central Committee, the Krakow Voivodship party committee, the TRYBUNA LUDU editorial office, the Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, and the Polish Council of Ministers Public Opinion Research Center. There was a detailed exchange of opinions on questions concerning the improvement of the work of Soviet and Polish mass media with the aim of extensively acquainting the public of both countries with the processes of restructuring and acceleration of socioeconomic development in the USSR and socialist renewal in Poland. Particular attention was paid to the practical implementation of the programmatic provisions of the Declaration on Soviet-Polish Cooperation in the Sphere of Ideology, Science, and Culture and the Program for Developing Ideological Cooperation Between the CPSU and the PZPR Through the Year 1990.

Yu.A. Sklyarov was received by W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish Council of State.

MURAKHOVSKIY, POLAND'S KOZIOL DISCUSS COOPERATION

PM161751 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] A meeting took place 13 May between V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, and J. Koziol, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers.

A large round of questions of bilateral economic, scientific, and technical cooperation were examined in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere.

In the course of the talks particular attention was devoted to progress in the implementation of intergovernmental agreements in the sphere of agro-industrial production, the creation of joint enterprises and production sharing units, and the development of direct ties between enterprises, organizations, and scientific institutions in the USSR and Poland.

The sides briefed each other on the state of affairs in the national agro-industrial complexes and the measures being taken by the countries' governments to strengthen the material and technical base of the agro-industrial complexes and boost the output of agricultural produce and foodstuffs.

J. Koziol visited the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and laid a wreath.

Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish at 1700 GMT on 17 May, reporting on Koziol's talks with members of the Soviet Government, states: "The possibility of signing a long-term agreement on supplies from Poland to the Soviet Union of potatoes and seedlings, the acceleration of mutual solutions in the sphere of the production of pesticides and herbicides, and also the initiation of cooperation and the increase of supplies of Soviet drainage machinery to Poland were examined. Cooperation in the area of fruit and vegetable processing and in the production of packaging was also discussed."

SUPREME SOVIET CONGRATULATES SFRY PRESIDENT MOJSOV

PM181603 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 87 Second Edition p 1

[USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Congratulations to Lazar Mojsov, President of the SFRY Presidium]

[Text] To Comrade Lazar Mojsov, President of the SFRY Presidency

On your election as president of the SFRY Presidency, please accept our cordial congratulations and wishes of success in this responsible state post.

We are firmly confident that the traditional relations of friendship and all-around cooperation between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia will continue to develop and strengthen in the interests of our countries' peoples, peace, and socialism.

USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

MARSHAL YEFIMOV ATTENDS SFRY EMBASSY RECEPTION

PM171801 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 May 87 Second Edition p 3

[Report: "Reception at the SFRY Embassy"]

[Text] On 5 May M. Veres, SFRY ambassador to the Soviet Union, arranged a reception on the occasion of the visit to the Soviet Union of Colonel General A. Tus, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense Force of the Yugoslav People's Army.

The reception was attended by Marshal of Aviation A.N. Yefimov, USSR deputy defense minister; V.P. Loginov, USSR deputy foreign minister; generals and officers of the Soviet Armed Forces; and veterans of the Great Patriotic War who participated in the liberation of Yugoslavia from the fascist invaders.

Speaking to the gathering, M. Veres and A. Tus rated highly the courage of the Soviet troops who fought during the years of World War II shoulder to shoulder with their Yugoslav comrades armed against the common enemy.

Colonel Z. Lorentsini, military, naval, and air force attache at the SFRY embassy in the USSR, attended the reception.

COOPERATION ISSUES EXAMINED IN BELGRADE TALKS

PM181445 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 May 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Questions of Cooperation"]

[Text] Belgrade, 17 May -- Soviet-Yugoslav talks have been held here. The delegations at them were headed by the cochairmen of the Soviet-Yugoslav Intergovernmental Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation: I.S. Silayev, deputy chairman of the SFRY Federal Executive Council.

A wide range of matters involving economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries and the possibilities of its further development were examined. The sides devoted great attention to seeking new opportunities for solving the problems of commodity exchange imbalance. In this connection note was taken of the need to activate mutual efforts with a view to increasing exports of Soviet commodities essential to the Yugoslav market and to take other measures to ensure the balanced nature of reciprocal deliveries.

B. Mikulic, president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, received the head of the Soviet delegation.

RSFSR, MONTENEGRO TALKS HELD ON EXPANDING TIES

PM161327 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 May 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "In the Interests of Cooperation"]

[Text] Participants in talks held at RSFSR ministries and departments in Moscow 12 May noted a mutual desire to considerably expand trade, economic, scientific, and technical relations between the RSFSR and Montenegro (SFRY). At a meeting at the Republic Gosplan where V. Vukadinovic, president of the Montenegro Assembly Executive Committee, and his party were received by N.I. Maslennikov, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the RSFSR Gosplan, specific proposals pertaining to the organization of mutually advantageous cooperation on the basis of production-sharing and joint research up to and including the establishment of joint enterprises were discussed. Machine building, the textile and footwear industries, and consumer goods production were among the sectors where this is deemed possible. In these sectors bilateral links are most widely developed.

During a meeting at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade much attention was paid to progressive forms of cooperation. A discussion was also held at the USSR Chamber of Trade and Industry.

The guest from Montenegro laid a wreath at the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall.

DAMAGED TANKER MARSHAL CHUYKOV IN KUWAITI PORT

LD181545 Moscow TASS in English 1514 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Kuwait May 18 TASS -- A Soviet supertanker, the Marshal Chuykov, damaged in a collision with a floating mine in Kuwait's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf, was towed to the Kuwaiti port of Mina' Al-Ahmadi yesterday night for inspection and repair. According to the ship's master none of the crew was hurt.

IRAQI STATEMENT ON STRIKING U.S. SHIP CITED

LD181816 Moscow TASS in English 1805 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Baghdad May 18 TASS -- A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq stated here that no evidence had been found so far proving that the blow at the U.S. Stark frigate had been dealt by an Iraqi plane. He said that in the opinion of Iraq, none of the Americans, nor anybody else, could draw a conclusion that Iraq had intended or planned to strike a blow at a non-Iranian target in the Persian Gulf. If this happened, the only reason for it was a mistake of pilots. Then Iraq will be ready to confirm it with regret.

According to the spokesman of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, U.S. officials should not jump at conclusions. He said that all the parties concerned should seek to conduct an investigation using all the means at their disposal which would supply them with full and objective information. The situation that took shape in the region makes this task imperative.

COMMENTATORS STRESS DANGERS OF GULF SITUATION

Pogodin on Need for Talks

LD181355 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Alarming reports have been coming in from the Persian Gulf region. The Soviet tanker Marshal Chuykov has exploded on a mine and the American rocket frigate Stark has been fired at. Aleksandr Pogodin elaborates, and this is what he writes.

These reports have again underlined the complexity and explosive character of the situation in the region. The Iran-Iraq war already has claimed over a million human lives and exhausted the material resources of both countries to the limit. It's endangering the security of other littoral countries both in the Gulf and way out. Last but not least, it's an important international economic region and the safety of trade sea routes is of special significance for many nations around the world.

Anyone can see what it takes to resolve this situation; it's essential to stop the Iran-Iraq war. The United Nations could assist in achieving the purpose. The Soviet Union fully supports the proposal of the United Nations Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar to discuss the problems at a Security Council meeting at foreign minister level. An end must be put to any kind of outside interference fueling the conflict. This applies in particular to the escalation of the United States military presence in the region.

The current events reflect the Soviet Union's burning position. This country has great hopes in the provision of safe and unimpeded navigation in the Gulf area. Asian countries have readily responded to the Soviet proposal to start multilateral talks on the problem; the aim of the talks is to guarantee the safety of sea routes, including those in the Persian Gulf and the Hormuz Strait and the sovereignty of littoral states over their natural resources. The Soviet Union firmly believes that these questions can and must be solved in a peaceful way.

Grechkov on U.S., USSR Stances

LD182217 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 87

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program, presented by Nikolay Grechkov; station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. guided-missile frigate Stark was hit by a missile yesterday. Heavy damage was caused to it, a fire broke out, and some crew members were killed.

The Pentagon spokesmen and the U.S. State Department expressed the view that the frigate was attacked by mistake. George Shultz, secretary of state, said in Washington that the United States is looking into this attack with all seriousness. The secretary of state also said that this incident stresses once more the danger of the Iran-Iraq war not only for [word indistinct] the two warring countries but also for the other states. One must agree with the U.S. secretary of state.

The armed conflict between Iran and Iraq continues in its 7th year. It has become customary to say that this war constitutes a danger not only for the security and peace for the two warring countries, but also for the whole Gulf region. One can now point out that the sparks of this fire are flying to the outside [word indistinct] -- in other words, we are standing before the real danger of the internationalization of this regional conflict.

The expansion of its sphere started 3 years ago when the tankers war (?started). During this period a total of 175 civilian vessels, most oil tankers sailing under the flags of different countries, have been attacked in the Gulf waters. As long as the Iraq-Iran war lasts, this list will get longer and the possibility of attack by mistake will increase.

Who can guess the consequences of such mistakes in the future? It is not a coincidence that several observers say that Murphy, the U.S. assistant secretary of state who has visited a number of Gulf countries, publicly and repeatedly announced shortly before the attack against the frigate that the United States is fully determined to use armed force, if necessary, to safeguard the security of international navigation in the Gulf. It is clear that this reaction will lead to a new escalation of the conflict in the Gulf with all the consequences on international security that would derive from it.

It is also clear that it is necessary to prevent such developments and to put an end to the cause of all these calamities -- that is, the war between the two neighboring states. This is in agreement with the fundamental interests of the two peoples and the interests of [word indistinct] international security. This is the position of the Soviet Union, affirmed during the latest Arab League delegation visit. Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, told the delegation members that wherever the question of the Iraq-Iran war arises, at the UN or other international meetings, the voice of the Soviet Union will always be heard with those who call for its immediate end.

Criticism of Murphy's Trip

NC181133 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1530 GMT 17 May 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, has concluded his visit of the Persian Gulf states. During this trip, he visited Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain, and Iraq, endeavoring to pacify and quell the region's violently antagonistic reaction to the clandestine shipment of U.S. arms to Iran. Washington's subversive act has been rightly interpreted in Arab states as instrumental in escalating and spreading the Iran-Iraq war, a war that the United States hypocritically declares should be terminated.

However, Washington's strategically important ally in the Middle East participated in the delivery of these consignments. Israel, first and foremost, stands to benefit from the escalation of tension in the region and the breaking down of the Arab countries' united front. Richard Murphy attempted to absolve Washington of all such blame, but it is most improbable that he succeeded. The U.S. Government has no intention of changing its subversive policy in the Middle East or the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

The United States has always sought to reap benefits from the Iran-Iraq war to strengthen its military presence in this important and strategic region of abundant natural resources. U.S. naval units have been stationed in the Persian Gulf and the neighboring waterways, and on the pretext of ensuring the safety of shipping and oil routes, the United States is trying to impose its unsolicited domination on the Persian Gulf countries. The White House has deemed this region its vital interest, even though the Persian Gulf is thousands of kilometers away from the United States. As usual, there is a wide chasm between the U.S. Government's words and deeds, and we now witness its double-sided policy in the Persian Gulf.

The United States professes to support normalization of the situation in the area, but, in practice, it is taking all possible measures to shatter the region's stability and to consolidate its own positions.

CPSU'S BRUTENTS INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST CONFERENCE

LD231311 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1207 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Apr (KUNA) -- In an interview published in today's AL-WATAN, Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee praised Kuwait's role in the success of the fifth Islamic summit held in Kuwait last January. Dr Brutents also praised the initiative taken by the summit in appealing for a halt to the Iraq-Iran war which "constitutes a great danger to security and peace in the Gulf region."

With regard to convening an international peace conference on the Middle East, he said that "positive progress" has been made recently in the direction of holding such a conference. He added that the idea of convening an international peace conference to settle the Middle East issue enjoys wide support in international circles; neither the United States nor Israel can ignore this.

The Kuwaiti daily pointed out that Dr Brutents met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Rome on 8 April on the periphery of the Socialist International conference, when he discussed with him the possibilities of holding such an international conference.

In an interview, which was given prior to the Rome meeting, Dr Brutents described this conference as being the only way for finding an outlet for the current situation in the Middle East. He said that the Arab state should make a more effective move in support of the Soviet proposal for setting up a preparatory committee for this conference.

On the issue of terrorism, the Soviet official said that his country categorically denounces all types and forms of terrorist operations. He put the major responsibility for the creation of the phenomenon of terrorism in the Middle East on Israel and the United States, because both practice terrorism at the state policy level.

Dr Brutents reaffirmed the USSR's commitment to all agreements and treaties concluded with Arab states. He said his country does not accept attempts to use the phenomenon of terrorism as a pretext for implementing hostile policies against states and nations waging struggles for freedom and independence.

RPP ENDORSES INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

TA161910 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1630 GMT 16 May 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The nonaligned countries have expressed their support for the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East. In a message to UN Secretary General Xavier Perez de Cuellar, the group of nonaligned countries emphasized that the conference is necessary for the attainment of a comprehensive settlement for the Middle East conflict.

The Soviet public, as well, believes there is no substitute for the conference, namely to join searches for a peaceful solution. This is the only way to break the deadlock. The time has come for detailed and careful preparatory work to begin. Some may argue that the international conference is a Soviet invention which is essentially a propaganda show [preceding word in English]: a trial against Israel. However, the position of the Soviet Union and the international community at large toward Israel's actions are well known and unchanged. Yet international conferences, including one on the Middle East, are held so that solutions mutually acceptable to all the sides can be found. The countries will not come to the conference to raise issues not subject to debate. Thus, Israel's commitment to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 242 and withdraw from the Arab territories conquered in 1967 is not debatable, nor is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The very fact of Israel's existence is similarly not a topic for discussion.

In an area such as the Middle East, where the crisis is so acute, there is no doubt that the right of every nation to political independence and its right to choose its own path of development should be honored. In this context, it is necessary to work out ideas and make moves that would establish credibility among the nations and determine effective guarantees for the integrity of borders and the prevention of aggression. Here, more than in any other region, it is necessary to find effective methods of putting an end to international terrorism, in whatever form it takes, but first of all to state terrorism.

The conference could provide the stage for bilateral negotiations, including [word indistinct] compromises and even unexpected resolutions. Obviously, all the parties (?directly) involved in the conflict must first of all establish a dialogue, despite many years of being unable to attain a comprehensive settlement. Therefore, the [word indistinct] of the permanent members of the Security Council, and first and foremost the Soviet Union and the United States, is aimed at helping the conference succeed.

The possibility of convening the conference and, moreover, its chances of success depend both on united and steadfast action on the part of the Arab countries involved in the conflict, and on the unity among the PLO camp.

The latest PLO meeting in Algiers proves that support for the need for unity has increased throughout all the rejectionist movement's factions. In order to implement all the regional peoples' desire for peace, security, and life within recognized borders, the leaders must abandon their old dogmas, the worn-out, routine modes of thinking and operating, and embark on the road of a search for a settlement. The perpetuation or dragging on of the conflict will only make everyone -- with the exception of the fanatics -- lose and endanger themselves, while an arrangement with compromises will allow everyone to gain.

ADEN DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVED BY MARSHAL SOKOLOV

EA181831 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] The official talks between our country's military delegation headed by Brother Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the Political Bureau and defense minister; and the military delegation of the Soviet Army and Navy headed by Comrade Sergey L. Sokolov, candidate member of the Politburo, Soviet marshal, and defense minister; began yesterday at the Soviet Ministry of Defense. The talks centered on cooperation between our country and the friendly Soviet Union and the ways of strengthening and developing it in a manner that serves the aspirations and expectations of the peoples and Armies of the two friendly countries.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH PDRY

LD161634 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1528 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Aden, 15 May (TASS) -- Several new documents on Soviet-Yemeni cooperation in the economic area have been signed in the PDRY capital. One of them is an intergovernmental protocol on Soviet aid to the PDRY in drawing up the country's economic and social development in the period up to the year 2000. This part, the USSR will furnish the PDRY with assistance in building a shortwave radio station and in preparing the construction of a fisheries complex on the island of Socotra. Agricultural equipment will also go from the Soviet Union to the V.I. Lenin state farm in Abyan Province.

Soviet aid is of special importance in strengthening the progressive regime in the PDRY and in implementing the country's plans for the development of the economy. This has been stressed frequently by the party and state leaders of the republic. Economic and technical cooperation between the two countries has existed since 1969. At present the USSR is rendering aid to the PDRY on 40 basic projects and themes. Over 2,000 Soviet specialists are working here.

The areas of Soviet-Yemeni cooperation include geology, power-engineering, agriculture and irrigation, fishing and fisheries, construction, transport and communications, training of national cadres, education, and health care. The discovery by Soviet geologists of commercial gas reserves was an outstanding event.

The documents signed in Aden are of particular importance for the the republic, which is building a society with socialist aims. The plans for the country's economic and social development will help, on the basis of scientific forecasting, to demonstrate the laws of national economic development and to form the state's economic policy. The plans' main task is to ensure further improvement in the people's material well-being and cultural living standard on the basis of growing labor productivity, increasing efficiency of public production, and all-round savings in all types of resources, as well as improvements in the quality of work. The course of reducing dependence on imports of food and basic goods in favor of developing domestic production must be reflected in the plans.

"From the moment our country acquired independence it has enjoyed the selfless support of the socialist countries," Yu.S. Nu'man, the republic's prime minister, said a few days ago at the opening in Aden of the first session of the CEMA and PDRY mixed commission. "Democratic Yemen's relations with the countries of socialism, primarily with the Soviet Union, have developed into a strategic plane. We see in them the main condition for the successful advance of the PDRY along the path of socialist orientation."

SUDANESE GOVERNMENT RESIGNATION ASSESSED

LD162100 Moscow in English to Africa 1700 GMT 16 May 87

[(Aleksey Litvinov) commentary]

[Text] Sudan's first civilian government, formed as a result of toppling the Numayri dictatorship in April 1985, has functioned for only 1 year. The burden of problems it had inherited from the previous regime proved to be too heavy for it. But it would be wrong to say that the government that has resigned accomplished nothing at all. It scored certain achievements. It succeeded for the first time in the past 5 years in making the country self-sufficient in food. It confined the repayment of debts to one-fourth of its exports revenues, and that had a favorable effect on Sudan's financial situation. It made the initial steps towards freeing Sudan from its dependence on the West.

However, the ruling coalition made blunders, too. First of all, it didn't succeed in finding a fair solution to the problem of the country's south. It lacked consistency in following the policy of de-Islamization, as a result of which hostilities flared between peoples of different religions. It failed also to overcome the country's economic crisis, though it tried hard to do so. And 1 year is not sufficient to attain this goal. There were grave differences on economic issues inside the government, too. The question of a loan from the IMF caused heated arguments. In exchange for its loan the Fund demanded that the government devalue [as heard] Sudan's monetary unit and cut off state subsidies. Though the country's in dire need of credits, to accept the fund's recommendations would have meant to aggravate its economic difficulties. The government failed to gain unanimity in regards to this problem and decided to step down.

And the country's supreme court approves the dissolution of the cabinet of ministers. Various parties will start consultations on forming a new government.

IZVESTIYA NOTES GHANA DELEGATION VISIT

PM150855 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Guest from Ghana"]

[Text] A delegation from the Ghana Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] headed by D.F. Annan, member of the PNDC, was in the Soviet Union 4 through 11 May as the guest of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The delegation had a talk with G.M. Voskanyan, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. There were meetings and talks at the USSR Supreme Court, the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of State and Law, and the USSR Gosplan. The guests evinced interest in questions of the activity of legislative organs, the restructuring of the economic mechanism which is being carried out in the Soviet Union, the implementation of the principles of economic management, and the raising of production efficiency.

At the Vladimir Ilich Kolkhoz near Moscow the members of the delegation displayed special interest in Soviet experience in managing a farm on a collective basis and in resolving the farm working people's socioconsumer affairs.

The delegation laid a wreath at the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum.
The guests visited Leningrad.

NEW AMBASSADORS APPOINTED TO SEYCHELLES, ZAMBIA

Anisimov: Seychelles

PM111153 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 May 87 Second Edition p 6

[Unattributed report: "News Item"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Comrade Viktor Vitalyevich Anisimov USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Seychelles.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has released Comrade Mikhail Georgiyevich Orlov from his duties as USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Seychelles in connection with his reassignment.

Miroshkhin: Zambia

LD140416 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1425 GMT 13 May

[Text] -- The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Oleg Miroshkhin USSR Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Zambia. Oleg Miroshkhin was born in 1928. He was engaged in economic and leading party work in the Kazakh SSR. In 1976-79 he was a secretary in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, and in 1979-87 was second secretary in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, member of the CPSU Central Committee, and a deputy in the USSR Supreme Soviet. The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has released Veniamin Likhachev from his duties as USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Zambia in connection with his retirement.

TRADE OFFICIAL ON OIL AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO

PA071315 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 3 May 87 pp 1-a, 10-a

[Article by EXCELSIOR correspondent J. Contreras Salcedo]

[Text] Moscow, 2 May -- The Soviet Union will ask Mexico to supply oil to Cuba and will, in turn, supply oil to Mexico's customers in Western Europe. [Soviet foreign trade official] Nikolay Zinovyev has stated that this operation will save both countries large amounts of foreign exchange.

This four-way "sui generis" agreement would have to be complemented with new bilateral trade legislation, specific compensatory exchanges, and increased participation by exporters.

Zinovyev, chief of the Trade with American Countries Administration, pointed out to EXCELSIOR that Mikhail Gorbachev's administration is will aware of the fact that the increase in its economic relations with Mexico did not mean that the latter would break away from the influence of the dollar or from its neighbor, the United States.

The Soviet official added: "What we do want is to strengthen our relations so that at least they will not be so far behind political positions, in which there is much greater understanding." Nikolay Zinovyev was interviewed at his offices in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs [as published] a few hours before the head of that ministry, Eduard Shevardnadze, met with his Mexican counterpart, Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, who is on an official 5-day visit to the USSR.

Regarding the four-party agreement, Zinovyev said: "We already have started talking about it," and added that it would not be a violation of the San Jose Pact, as anti-Soviet circles could allege, "for the simple reason that we already have similar agreements with a signee of that pact, Venezuela, to supply crude oil to Central America and the Caribbean."

Zinovyev speaks fluent Spanish because he has been responsible for Soviet trade policy in Canada, the United States, and throughout Latin America for the past 12 years. He is confident about the future of Mexico-USSR trade relations and said: "We are obliged to seek new paths that will be mutually beneficial."

The official is almost bald, with a businessman's figure, and does not seem to be very interested in political matters. He criticized both Mexicans and his countrymen "for not using their economic potential to fully promote the development of trade between both countries."

The reporter asked: Could Mexico's present critical economic situation hinder or prevent some Soviet capital from being invested in my country?

He answered: I think we clearly know how far we can go. In any case, we are not seeking transactions of, say \$1 billion. We are realistic. Perhaps there could be problems, but, as we understand it, we would not lose large amounts of money.

In this regard, Zinovyev said of the Mexican foreign minister's visit: "I hope that they talk in depth about specific trade matters. Both parties require greater flexibility and good will. In this manner, trade would be increased. However, it is understood that this will not happen abruptly, but gradually."

In addition to a severely unequal bilateral trade balance, the quantities that were traded were of little significance to either country. The USSR imported \$12 million in Mexican products and we Mexicans bought \$6 million worth of goods last year.

It must be mentioned that the two governments already have signed an agreement in the commercial, economic and technical-scientific areas. Zinovyev stated that his agreement is already being revised, although not as quickly as "we all would wish." He added that separate committees will be created for each of the areas and that this requires all legal aspects to be reformulated.

Further, Zinovyev foresees better times between Mexico and the Soviet Union in economic and trade matters which will allow, among other things, an increase in the credit levels that have brought Soviet tractors to work in Mexican fields. He added: "We could explore new paths of this nature and we are already doing so by trying to get more machines of this (light) type to the farmers of your country."

Nikolay Zinovyev also gave information on conversations held with Mexican officials, "that could turn into reality," as in the specific case of "small but interesting" compensatory transactions: Soviet ships could take Mexican merchandise to any port in the world in exchange for different kinds of pipes. He added that "In this area, we are receiving a positive response from the Mexicans."

Zinovyev stated that he had headed a Soviet delegation that visited Mexico at the beginning of April and signed an agreement providing for medium-draft ships to carry various nonmetallic minerals to the purchasing parties, and "in exchange we will receive mooring cables [cable de sabotage]." The Mexican private exporting sector participated in this transaction "and we can continue with other similar transactions if there is a positive attitude and the results of this experience are of mutual benefit," he added.

Zinovyev reported another "small but important" transaction with a Mexican company that will supply "a specific type of paper that is used to make car filters. As far as I know, there are only four factories in the world that make it. The amount of the transaction is not too great -- \$100,000 -- but Mexico has been quite satisfied and plans are being made to broaden the operations."

The official returned to the subject of the four-way oil agreement the USSR is proposing: In Mexico we spoke to Alberto Escofet, under secretary of energy, mines and parastatal industry; Hector Hernandez, secretary of commerce and industrial development; and Francisco Rojas, head of Pemex.

He continued: He told them, among other things, that we thought this four-way oil agreement was a worthwhile transaction and, as such, we are working on it. I repeat that this agreement is very similar to the one we have with Venezuela.

According to Zinovyev, many Soviet tankers carrying crude oil to Cuba often return to their home ports empty, and this produces excessive shipping costs. He added: "This is why we have suggested, and do so again now, that we use our ships or Mexican ships to supply that Caribbean island with oil from your country. In exchange, the USSR would supply oil, of the same quality and at the same price as Pemex, to European countries, thus meeting Mexico's commitments."

He concluded that it is worthwhile to study this option "because it would be beneficial to both countries." He naturally rejected the possibility that private or public Mexican exporters could have political or economic fears, because "Didn't the world's first socialist revolution occur in Mexico?"

CPSU DELEGATION ENDS CUBA 4-14 MAY STUDY VISIT

PM181551 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Interparty Cooperation"]

[Text] A delegation of CPSU party workers headed by I.A. Larin, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Administrative Organs Department, visited Cuba 4 through 14 May. It learned about the Communist Party of Cuba's experience of work in the military-patriotic education of the population.

The delegation held meetings and conversations at the Central Committee and at provincial and municipal party committees and visited enterprises and establishments in the Province of Havana, Camaguey, and Santiago de Cuba.

The delegation was received by J. Machada Ventura, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee.

NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON WEST EUROPE VISIT

LD190853 Moscow TASS in English 0659 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Managua May 19 TASS -- Henry Ruiz, Nicaragua's minister of foreign co-operation, positively evaluated the results of his visit to a number of West European countries. Upon his return to Managua, the member of the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front told newsmen that despite the massive pressure by the United States, political will perseveres in Western Europe to carry on support for revolutionary Nicaragua. In the course of the tour new trade and economic agreements were concluded with the Netherlands, Norway and Austria, Henry Ruiz said.

LEADERS PUNISHED FOR LAKE BAYKAL POLLUTION

PM181505 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 87 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has considered the question of the responsibility of persons guilty of failing to fulfill decisions made earlier on the implementation of environmental protection measures in the Lake Baykal basin.

The CPSU Central Committee's decision points out that the leaders of the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry, the USSR State Committee for Forestry, the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, the USSR Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building, the RSFSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, the Siberian Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and other ministries and departments have displayed a lack of discipline in not ensuring the complete and timely fulfillment of the tasks defined by the USSR Council of Ministers resolution of 21 January 1969 "On Measures to Preserve and Make Rational Use of Nature Complexes in the Lake Baykal Basin," the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution of 16 June 1971 "On Additional Measures to Ensure the Rational Use and Preservation of the Natural Wealth of the Lake Baykal Basin," the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution of 21 July 1977 "On Measures to Further Ensure the Protection and Rational Use of the Natural Wealth of the Lake Baykal Basin," and other decisions. As a result, the unique reservoir and its natural environs continue to be polluted by industrial and agricultural wastes and gaseous discharges; irrational use of forestry resources is being permitted; reforestation and forest fire prevention are organized in an extremely unsatisfactory manner; and water and wind erosion of soil is developing.

The CPSU Central Committee believes such an irresponsible attitude toward fulfilling the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers is intolerable and demands that party, soviet, and economic organs at the center and local level ensure the precise, timely and complete fulfillment of the party and government decisions.

For unsatisfactory fulfillment of the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers of 21 July 1977 on setting up a system for closed-circuit water supply at the Selenga Cellulose and Cardboard Combine, for low efficacy of the work of this enterprise, pollution of the environment by industrial wastes and gaseous discharges from the Baykalsk Cellulose and Paper Combine, and also for the profound lagging which has been allowed to occur in development and technical re-equipment of the cellulose and paper industry, it is deemed expedient to relieve Comrade Pronin, deputy minister of the USSR Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry, from his post.

For poor monitoring of the observation of the established rules of forestry use in the Lake Baykal basin, failure to take measures to enhance and improve the state of and intensify the water conservation functions of forests, shortcomings in work on forestry renewal and the large forestry losses which have occurred due to fires, it is deemed expedient to issue a severe reprimand to Comrade Bobrov, member of the CPSU, deputy RSFSR minister of the Forestry Industry.

The RSFSR Council of Ministers is to decide the question of the possibility of making further use of Comrade Bobrov as of RSFSR deputy minister of the Forestry Industry.

The application of Comrade Mikhaylov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Forestry, to retire on pension, is to be taken into consideration.

The attention of Comrade Zverev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Forestry, and of Comrade Prilepo, RSFSR minister of the Forestry Industry, is to be drawn to the irresponsibility they have manifested in organizing the implementation of party and government decisions on issues relating to protecting the Lake Baykal basin. They are to be warned that if they fail to take exhaustive measures to improve the ecological situation in the forests in the Lake Baykal region, they will be held strictly accountable.

The Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences (Comrade Marchuk) is to consider the question of raising the level of responsibility of scientific organizations for working out recommendations on questions concerning the protection and utilization of natural resources.

Proceeding from the requirements of the decisions by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers of 13 April 1987, the Presidium of the Siberian Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences and Irkutsk Oblast CPSU Committee are to be instructed to strengthen the management and carry out the restructuring of the scientific activity of the Limnology Institute, and raise the effectiveness and quality of research. Comrade Gorin, member of the CPSU, member of the Board and chief of the Main Scientific-Technological Administration for Power and Electrification of the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, is to be severely reprimanded for the tardiness he has displayed and for red tape in the implementation of tasks set by decisions of the party and government on protecting the Lake Baykal environment. Comrade Makukhin, USSR first deputy minister of power and electrification, and Comrade Peresyphkin, RSFSR minister of the fish industry — members of the CPSU — are to be cautioned.

The attention of Comrade Systov, USSR minister of the aviation industry; Comrade Babenko, USSR minister for construction in the Far East and Transbaykal regions; Comrade Mayorets, USSR minister of power and electrification, and of Comrade Kotlyar, USSR minister of the fish industry; is to be drawn to the impermissibility of violating deadlines for the construction of projects linked with the protection of the basin of Lake Baykal, and they are to be asked to correct the state of affairs.

The Buryat and Irkutsk Oblast Committee of the CPSU; the Council of Ministers of the Buryat ASSR and the Irkutsk Oblast Executive Committee; the party committees of the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry; the USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry; the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Far East and Transbaykal Regions; the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification; the USSR Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine-Building; the USSR Ministry of the Aviation Industry; as well as the USSR Academy of Sciences, the USSR State Committee for Forestry, the RSFSR Ministry of the Fish Industry; the RSFSR Ministry of the Forestry Industry, and the RSFSR State Committee for the Agro-Industrial Complex are to consider the question of the personal responsibility of workers of the central and local organs who are guilty of not fulfilling the tasks of the party and the government on protecting the environment.

It is to be noted that the RSFSR Council of Ministers -- Comrades Tabeyev and Yerminev -- are poorly implementing control over the fulfillment of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers concerning the protection of the basin of Lake Baykal and the rational utilization of its natural resources.

LIGACHEV, DOBRYNIN SPEAK AT TRADE FAIR EXHIBITION

PM161739 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Participation in International Trade Fairs and Exhibition -- in the Service of Restructuring. Joint Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commissions"]

[Text] A joint session of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet took place in the Kremlin 13 May. The question of the efficiency of the Soviet Union's participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions was reviewed.

Comrade Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union; and Comrade Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities, took part in the work of the session.

Present at the session were Comrade Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers' State Foreign Economic Commission; Comrade Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and leaders of a number of ministries and departments.

The session was conducted by Comrade Ligachev.

In his opening address Comrade Ligachev noted that the Soviet Union's participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions abroad, and the holding of foreign exhibitions in the USSR, is becoming an increasingly notable phenomenon in our international links.

The role of trade fairs and exhibitions is constantly growing under present conditions, when the economic interdependence of states in the world community is increasing and the forms of international business cooperation are becoming increasingly diverse.

Having set a course toward restructuring, the party intends to expand our participation in the international division of labor, in connection with which an important place is being given to exhibitions in the country and abroad.

During the 11th 5-Year Plan period and in 1986, exhibits by the Soviet Union were shown at 172 international trade fairs and exhibitions in 49 countries. They were visited by more than 100 million persons. During the same period, 45 USSR cities hosted over 1,000 exhibition events with participation by firms and organizations from 50 foreign countries. Generally speaking, quite a lot has been done. At the same time, if the existing potential were properly used, with initiative, and with imagination, much work could be done to the great advantage of restructuring. [paragraph continues]

As was stressed in the CPSU Central Committee's appeal to the Soviet people regarding the 70th anniversary of Great October, and to solve the economic and social tasks posed by the 27th party congress, it is essential to initiate the deep lying factors for growth. These are primarily the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and the ensuring of fundamental improvement of output quality on the basis of the reconstruction and retooling of production, which demands the consistent implementation of the line of closely linking the transformations in the country's economy with the scientific and technical revolution occurring in the world. Exhibitions should vigorously assist the attainment of the world's highest standards of efficiency, product quality, and labor productivity. The party has set a task -- of which Comrade Gorbachev spoke about at the 27th party congress -- to implement a restructuring of the structure for foreign trade, and make exports and imports more effective.

In exports, a substantial increase must be ensured in the share of finished products, first of all engineering products. This task does not find itself reflected in the manner due at Soviet exhibitions. The current procedure for preparing them and holding them has come into conflict with the new economic management conditions. In particular, ministries and industrial associations and enterprises are not properly interested in promoting their export output through trade fairs and exhibitions. This conflict must be eliminated. The USSR Council of Ministers state Foreign Economic Commission should institute forward planning of exhibition work, involve itself in improving its normative base, and in solving other fundamental questions in conformity with the new conditions, whereby enterprises, associations, and ministries are directly involved in foreign economic links. Exhibitions must familiarize the public in foreign countries with the essence of our policy, which is aimed at ensuring the interests of working people, at the comprehensive satisfaction of their demands, and preserving peace and life itself on our planet.

Communications were read at the session by Comrade Pitovranov, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Comrade Malkevich, first USSR deputy foreign trade minister; and Comrade Yefremov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology.

They analyzed practical questions of exhibition work in the conditions of the radical improvement of foreign economic activity.

Deputy Chervonenko, secretary of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities, delivered a report on the results of the joint deputies' preparatory group's familiarization with the organization of work on the Soviet Union's participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions abroad, and the holding of international and foreign exhibitions in the USSR. Attention was drawn to the fact that the staging of international exhibitions in the USSR do not always correspond to the main directions of world science and technology; the latest technological achievements and advanced experience of leading foreign firms in organizing production and raising output quality are often left unacknowledged. Clearer and more expressive exposure should be given at Soviet exhibitions abroad to the practical implementation of the party's policy line aimed at the priority development of cooperation with socialist countries. There is an inadequate exhibition of the work to develop direct ties, production sharing, and other effective forms of foreign economic ties.

Participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions must be more actively used to display Soviet economic and technical assistance to the liberated countries in their socioeconomic development, training or national personnel, and in other spheres.
[paragraph continues]

Note was made of serious shortcomings with regard to the quality of exhibits on show at exhibitions and trade fairs, the organization of commercial work at them, the technical provision for them, and the training of personnel appropriate to them.

Taking part in the discussion of the question were deputies Gromova, Kuleshov, Laptev, Popov, and Ryabov. They spoke of the need to consolidate the material and technical base of exhibition work, expand the geographical scale of exhibition events, and create conditions for the broader familiarization of national economic specialists with the achievements of scientific and technical progress.

Comrade Dobrynin spoke at the meeting. He stressed that exhibitions, if properly organized, could make a growing contribution to the process of humanizing international relations. Exhibitions and activities connected with them have a large potential for promoting mutual information, human contacts, fruitful discussions and so on. This serves to form trust in relations between countries and peoples, trust which is vitally necessary for developing new thinking in the approach to solving the most burning international issues of our time, including in trade and economic relations. It is an equally important factor that participation in trade fairs and exhibitions is a well established form of maintaining and developing cooperation between business circles.

The main thing now is that the Soviet Union's participation in exhibitions and fairs is raised to the level of the new demands formulated by the 27th CPSU Congress, and by the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum.

The arguments contained in the memorandum by the deputies' preparatory group and in the deputies' speeches covers broad range of problems. Many questions are posed in a new fashion, taking account of the cardinal changes in our country's economic machinery and relying on economic methods of management. The point now is to actively implement plans.

Winding up the session, Comrade Ligachev stressed that there had been a vigorous and involved discussion of the question brought before it. The draft decision presented for renewal at the joint session of the commissions is aimed at raising the efficiency of exhibition activity. Recommendations for the fuller use of exhibitions and trade fairs in the interests of accelerating scientific and technical progress are of fundamental significance. Cooperation within the framework of countries of the socialist community is, and will continue to be the core of our external economic ties, and it is essential that this should find itself duly reflected. Further measures should be taken to improve the informational content of Soviet displays, which would ensure that the foreign public is acquainted with the modern affairs and concerns of our people. The time has come to think about holding a major international trade and industrial trade fair in the Soviet Union, on a regular basis, of the type of trade fairs and exhibitions of world renown.

Those who spoke, noted Comrade Ligachev, expressed many interesting thoughts. A number of constructive proposals and remarks are contained in material brought before the commission by deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet and central economic bodies. All these proposals and remarks should be reviewed in a most careful manner by the appropriate ministries and departments, and the necessary measures taken.

The session unanimously adopted the decision on the question discussed.

GROMYKO SPEAKS TO AWARD RECIPIENTS IN MOSCOW

PM181521 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "For Many Years of Hard Work"]

[Text] On 15 May in the Kremlin A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, presented orders and medals of the Soviet Union to a group of award winners.

G.A. Pushkin, pattern maker at the Tula Armament Plant, has been awarded the title Hero of Socialist Labor for the second time. "Serp i Molot" Hero of Socialist Labor gold medals and the Order of Lenin were conferred on Academician L.M. Brekhovskikh and writer V.G. Rasputin, the Order of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, and the Order of the Peoples' Friendship to Academician N.P. Fedorenko.

After the awards had been conferred, A.A. Gromyko said:

State awards have been received today by a worker, a writer, and three academicians.

Gennadiy Aleksandrovich Pushkin, a pattern maker at the Tula Armament Plant, is now Twice Hero of Socialist Labor. People such as he are said to be tempered by their work. He has worked at this plant for 50 years. The dynasty of Pushkin gunsmiths is also well known outside Tula. Nine representatives of this family have worked at the same enterprise for a total of 171 years. This figure speaks for itself.

Gennadiy Aleksandrovich is a highly skilled specialist and so it is no accident that he is entrusted with the manufacture of all the most delicate instruments. He is one of those Tula craftsmen about whom Leskov graphically wrote that they "could even shoe a flea." They have produced heroes in the difficult war years and in peacetime. Our country lauds working people like these.

Valentin Grigoryevich Rasputin is a writer who enjoys renown in the Soviet Union and abroad. We can easily say -- and it would not be inaccurate -- that he is an outstanding contemporary writer. He is still only 50 years old but even in this time he has succeeded in doing so much that the motherland has rightly awarded him the lofty title of Hero of Socialist Labor. He is an example of wholehearted commitment. The essence of his biography could be encapsulated in one line, but what a line! Intense creative literary work.

Because he lives in and writes about the interior, Valentin Rasputin is called a Siberian writer. Well, this is an honorable title in itself. But Valentin Rasputin's vision is not limited to Siberian horizons -- he is also able to see far beyond them. He is a widely recognized, talented writer in our country, of whom Soviet readers are proud.

In conferring awards on representatives of the the world of science I would once again like to emphasize the importance of science in our age in general and also its importance in the life of our country. [paragraph continues]

By honoring scientists we are paying a tribute of respect to Soviet science as one of the most important spheres of human activity in our society.

Science has long been a material force in the Soviet state. Its enormous significance for socialism was powerfully highlighted at the 27th CPSU Congress. The report by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the January plenum concisely formulated the party's present strategy: to combine the achievements of the scientific and technical revolution with the planned economy and bring the whole of socialism's potential into play. Our party's Central Committee plenum thereby reemphasized the very important role played by science.

Leonid Maksimovich Brekhovskikh, an eminent specialist in ocean physics, is a representative of advanced science. He also does a great deal of organizational work in his capacity as academician secretary of the USSR Academy of Sciences Oceanology, Atmospheric Physics, and Geography Department. He is a member of the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium. Under his leadership the very latest scientific disciplines connected with world ocean problems are being established and developed.

A good word must be said about Nikolay Nikolayevich Blokhin, a major scientist in the field of medicine. For many years he was president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences. The fact that he specializes in the field of oncology and that this field of Soviet medical science is in the forefront of world science, thanks to his work among others, is evidence of this scientist's great merit.

Academician Nikolay Prokofyevich Fedorenko, who represents Soviet economic science, deserves a warm welcome and appreciation. A member of the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium and now head of a laboratory at the Central Economics and Mathematics Institute, he has not only given many years of his life to the study of scientific problems but also to educating young scientists.

I wholeheartedly congratulate you, dear comrades, on your receiving these high state awards. I give you cordial congratulations and wishes of future success in your work from the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev sends you his congratulations.

I hope and am sure these awards will act as an incentive for many future achievements.

The award winners expressed their deep gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government for their high appraisal of their work for the good of their country and people.

VILNIUS KGB CHIEF RETIRES, EISMONTAS APPOINTED

LD111015 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 0000 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Juozas Petkevicius, has been released from his post as chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Committee for State Security by the order of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Presidium, because of his retirement.

Juozas Petkevicius has been in this post for 20 years. Eduardas Eismontas has been appointed chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Committee for State Security.

CHURCH CONFERENCE OPENS IN MOSCOW 12 MAY

LD121004 Moscow TASS in English 0942 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 12 TASS -- The second international church study conference on the theology and spirituality of the Russian Orthodox Church devoted to the 1,000th anniversary of the christianizing of Russia, which will be marked in 1988, went ahead in Moscow today.

It opened with a solemn public service in the Cathedral of the Nativity at the Novodevichy monastery, conducted by hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church and attended by religious workers who had come to Moscow from many countries to take part in the conference.

They greeted warmly a message of greeting from Pimen, patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, who said that the current theological forum ahead of the millennium of the baptism of Russia, just as the historic conference that preceded it in Kiev last summer, "are remarkable milestones signifying the approach to, and the preparation for, this great celebration on the threshold of which we reverently pass in review in its multiple aspects of the millennial past and the present, the experience of which we share and which we construct, of the Russian orthodoxy". [sentence as received]

Patriarch Pimen expressed confidence that a wide-ranging and creative discussion of the meeting's topic "will contribute to our deeper participation in the centuries-old treasury of the profound Christian thought on God and the piety in Russia".

The conference will continue till May 19. Its participants will attend evening services at many Moscow churches and visit the St. Sergium monastery outside the city and the Danilov monastery in Moscow, founded in the 13th century by local Prince Daniil.

MOSCOW 'CHURCH HERALD' PUBLISHES IN SIX LANGUAGES

PM151347 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 15, 12 Apr 87 p 14

[Marina Amarova report: "Church News in Six Languages"]

[Text] "In this ecumenical age of all-round development of religious contacts among Christian churches, the importance of clerical information has grown immeasurably." This is a quote from the Address of Patriarch Pimen of Moscow and All Russia to the Readers of the first issue of the monthly THE MOSCOW CHURCH HERALD.

"The new publication launched by the Moscow Patriarchate is published in Russian, English, French, German, Spanish, and Arabic," said Metropolitan Pitirim of Volokolamsk and Yuryev, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Publishing Department, to an MN correspondent.

"Church news from Moscow will promote the knowledge of the life of believers in this country, and, hopefully, will be well received by them, as well as introduce our foreign readers to inside information about the Russian Orthodox Church and other religious communities.

"In the pages of THE MOSCOW CHURCH HERALD, the preparation for the 1000th anniversary of Christianity in Russia (to be celebrated in 1988) will be covered. Our readers' interest is sure to be evoked by discussions and interviews with our brothers in the ecumenical cooperation from various countries in the world, and in the yearly round-table conferences of religious workers and scientific experts under the motto, "Religious Workers for Saving the Sacred Gift of Life from Nuclear Catastrophe".

"We shall be paying attention to the correlation between such issues as hunger, poverty and the arms race. Indeed, the race for military superiority has been eating up the means and resources badly needed for humanitarian projects.

"His Holiness Patriarch Pimen of Moscow and All Russia has stressed the urgency of realizing the 'need for creating new ethical relations underlying the coexistence of people and nations'. We do hope that THE MOSCOW CHURCH HERALD will carry the message of truth, hope and peace...."

What topics does the first colourfully illustrated issue of the monthly deal with? First, there are many reports from all over the country: the Puhta nunnery in the Tallinn diocese was the scene of a theological seminar; a meeting took place between the representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church and the National Christ Churches Council of the United States; a new Baptist prayer house opened in the Georgian city of Rustavi. Chief rabbi of the Moscow Synagogue wrote about the life of the Judaic community in the capital, which is the largest among this country's nearly 200 Judaic communities. A delegation of Indian Buddhists paid a visit to the Ivolginsk temple near Ulan Ude, the centre of Buddhism in the USSR. The progress of restoration works in the Danilov Monastery, the administrative centre of the Russian Orthodox Church, to be reopened for the great jubilee, is covered, too. The first issue of THE HERALD closes with an interesting story about Sergius Radonezhskiy, the founder of the Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra.

You can apply for subscriptions to THE MOSCOW CHURCH HERALD's foreign-language editions to the Publishing Department of the Moscow Patriarchate, 20 Pogodinskaya Ulitsa, Moscow, USSR.

METROPOLITAN PITIRIM ON ACCESS TO BIBLE

LD171132 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2105 GMT 16 May 87

[Interview with Metropolitan Pitirim of Volokolamsk and Yuryev by Molchanov in Moscow; from the "Before and After Midnight" program presented by Maya Sidorova and Vladimir Molchanov, date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Molchanov] The following request was contained in viewers' letters sent to our program: Invite one of the country's well-known religious figures into the studio. Well, our country is a large one, in it there are atheists and there are believers. We all live and work together. I would like to introduce you to Metropolitan Pitirim of Volokolamsk and Yuryev, 61, who is the chairman of the publishing department of the Moscow Patriarchate. He was the youngest of 11 children. His elder brothers became engineers. One sister was at the head of a faculty in the motor and mechanical institute, another is a land-surveyor and another is an architect. But Konstantin Vladimirovich Nechayev -- that is what he was named at birth -- became a priest and professor of the Moscow religious academy.

Last year Metropolitan Pitirim was awarded the Order of the Friendship of the Peoples. The metropolitan was unable to come to the studio at night and so the interview that you are now going to see was recorded earlier.

[Begin recording] [Molchanov] Thank you, esteemed metropolitan, for responding to the invitation to give an interview for the program "Before and After Midnight". What are the universal values that, in your view, unite people who are believers and atheists who live in our country?

[Pitirim] Universal values? I think the main and greatest value we have is the joint life we share in a single fatherland. This feeling of the homeland is inherent in every son and daughter of this homeland which we love, which we live for and for the sake of which each one does his duty. This is the most fundamental thing, and therefore one's personal tastes, or perhaps even one's personal make-up pertaining to one's profession, one's talents, or perhaps even one's personal make-up as a personality, modesty, unwillingness to make oneself stand out or on the contrary the desire to show oneself: All of this serves our society alone, the socialist society of our homeland.

[Molchanov] You head the publishing department of the Moscow patriarchate. What could you say in reply to recent assertions by the French publishing house France Catholique and the Italian IL TEMPO that the Bible is banned in the Soviet Union and that one can end up in prison for reading it?

[Pitirim] It seems to me we are dealing with either a lack of information or with the usual journalistic device of sensationalism. Every citizen is able to read and to study and to have access to the Bible. The fact that it is not easy to acquire it is another question, but there are many other publications in our country for which one must wait in line. We are publishing the Bible, currently it is the sixth stereotype edition, devoted to the millenium of the Russian Orthodox Church. We are working on an edition of our ancient Russian texts of the 11th and 12th centuries and the Bible of the 15th century which will also be available to our people. We are also preparing an illustrated anniversary Bible which is also devoted to the millenium of the Russian Orthodox Church. We are doing all of this in order for people to have the Bible, for them to read the Bible and to study it.

[Molchanov] You and I have a single fatherland, a fatherland in which a process of revolutionary restructuring is now taking place, a process of spiritual and moral renewal. What is the attitude of the church to these processes?

[Pitirim] For us this is something we talk about every day. I would like to recall the words of a church author of ancient times, now, Saint Cyprian of Carthage, of the 3d century, who wrote in Latin and who said that the church is always renewing itself. Man cannot remain set in one position. Man is evolving, therefore those processes now taking place in our state naturally affect everyone. The soul develops. The richness of spiritual life develops. The human factor which we now both read about and talk about ourselves is for us, in fact, what the work of the church consists in, the perfection of the human spirit, the perfection of the human being as a personality and the revelation of the best natural virtues he possesses.

[Molchanov] You are metropolitan of Volokolamsk and Yuryev. When we talk about Volokolamsk, we cannot help thinking at the same time of the tragedy, the unforgettable tragedy, of the last war.

May I ask you how you personally contribute to the antiwar activity of the Russian Orthodox Church?

[Pitirim] The Russian church, as you know, made a great contribution to the cause of victory over Nazism, and for me Volokolamsk is not a symbol but a reality. I walk over a land which has been soaked in blood and every year I pay tribute to the memory of those who remain there unto eternity, our heroic soldiers and the inhabitants. That is the past, however, and we have to think about the future. Now that the threat of nuclear disaster hangs over the world as a reality which is capable of being unleashed either through chance circumstance or ill-intentioned will, the Russian church stands in front of many other defenders of peace, and as you know a large conference took place in 1982 in Moscow in defense of the sacred gift of life against nuclear disaster. We carry this idea forward along all the highways of our international life and in our meetings and a new foundation -- if one may put it like that -- has now come into being for the survival and development of mankind. This unites the efforts of people representing culture, science, and religion -- our Soviet Peace Committee and the Peace Foundation -- all those who in their activity work directly in the name of peace. Everywhere first and foremost our voice now is not just a voice in the name of preserving peace but a voice for the awakening of the human conscience and for preserving life itself. [end recording]

TAJIK RELIGIOUS LEADER ON STATUS OF ISLAM

AU120803 Vienna VOLKSSTIMME in German 9 May 87 p 3

[Werner Pirker report from Dushanbe, Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic: "'Salam 'Alaykum, Esteemed Comrades'"]

[Excerpts] For dear guests the doors of the mosque are always open -- Imam Khatib, whose full name is Khodoydovov Khodzhi Mansur, welcomes the group of foreign journalists from the atheist camp. Then he welcomed every person individually with one hand pressed to his heart and the suggestion of a bow: Salam 'Alaykum -- Peace be with you.

The Djami Mosque in Dushanbe is the seat of the Spiritual Administration of the Muslims in middle Asia for the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic. In this republic, Islam is still a great power, and over the past few years the number of believers has even increased. This was openly admitted by Makaramov, first secretary of the Communist Party of Tajikistan, in a talk with this group of journalists, and he added that this development is causing great concern to the party. [passage omitted]

There was the question whether it is possible -- on the basis of common class interests of believers and nonbelievers among the working people -- for a Muslim to become a member of the Communist Party. It was categorically denied both by the Imam and by the head of the State Office for Religious Affairs. Religious convictions and Marxism-Leninism are totally incompatible ideologies, both sides argue.

They also fully agree that in this area there cannot be any reconciliation: not in the direction of Marxist Islam nor in the direction of Islamic Marxism.

In view of so much agreement it is no wonder that the two ideological opponents call each other "comrade." [paragraph continues]

But one has to note that in the USSR the term "comrade" has become a general form of address regardless of any membership in the party, to the same degree in which the Soviet state has developed from the proletarian state to the state of all people.

Atheist Education [subhead]

But how does the clergy react to the party's declared intention to restrain religious thinking or to prevent its emergence from the start, if possible, by corresponding education of the youth?

Since this announcement there have been so many countermovements to Islam, but they came and went, and Islam remained. Imam Khatib said this with such serenity as if he wanted to demonstrate the unshakability of his religion with this alone. It is atheist education in particular, he continued, which has reawakened the interest in religion. A pope in Sagorsk (the center of the Russian Orthodoxy) once told me exactly the same thing.

One asks, indeed, whether forced, renewed atheist propaganda might not have a contrary effect -- particularly if it is mainly antipropaganda.

The best atheist propaganda is still bringing man closer to science. In addition, there is the recognition of social connections, which undermines the belief in the omnipotence of a supreme being. In the end active social involvement is the most effective challenge to religious fanaticism.

Allah is great and by the beard of the prophet: He should know how to interpret the signs of the times.

DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER BABASHKIN DIES

PM150905 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 87 Morning Edition p 6

[Obituary of Prof Lev Yefimovich Babashkin]

[Excerpts] Candidate of Economic Sciences Professor Lev Yefimovich Babashkin, USSR deputy minister of finances and member of the CPSU since 1959, died 9 May 1987 in his 57th year. [passage omitted]

N.N. Slyunkov, B.I. Gostev, S.A. Sitaryan, V.V. Dementsev, V.S. Pavlov, M.S. Zotov, V.P. Mozhin, Yu.A. Belik, V.A. Khorkin, N.V. Garetovskiy, S.M. Borisov, V.Ye. Orlov, V.A. Salnikov, V.N. Semenov, A.V. Brezhenko, D.F. Kovalevskiy, V.G. Panskov, V.V. Shakhov, G.K. Shekhovtsov, V.T. Shirnyuk, V.L. Shevtsova, A.S. Bodrov.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSION DISCUSSES ECONOMIC ISSUES

PM171659 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 20, May 87 (Signed to Press 7 May 87) p 7

[Unattributed report: "In the Commission for the Improvement of Management, Planning, and the Economic Mechanism"]

[Text] At its sessions the Commission for the Improvement of Management, Planning, and the Economic Mechanism formed by a USSR Council of Ministers resolution examined a number of questions concerning the work of enterprises and construction and installation organizations under conditions of complete economic accountability and self-capitalizing.

Approval was given to regulations for monitoring the observance of stability of normatives set for associations, enterprises, and construction and installation organizations transferred to complete economic accountability and self-capitalizing.

There was a discussion of the initial results of work by individual associations and enterprises transferred to complete economic accountability and self-capitalizing as from 1 January 1987. The USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building, the USSR Ministry of the Automotive Industry, the USSR Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems, the USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, and the USSR Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building were instructed to eliminate the breaches committed when indicators, normatives, and limits for 1987 were notified to individual enterprises under their jurisdiction.

The question of the phased transition of industrial sectors to complete economic accountability and self-capitalizing was examined. Proposals were drafted for the procedure and time schedule for the transfer to complete economic accountability and self-capitalizing. It is planned to transfer associations, enterprises, and organizations in machine building, metallurgy, the chemical, timber, and pulp and paper industries, and a number of other sectors to these conditions from 1 January 1988. Approval was given to a schedule for the phased transfer of industrial and national economic sectors to these conditions in 1988-89.

Approval was given to regulations for conducting an economic experiment in the "Mosoblektromontazh" Trust under the Moscow Oblast Main Administration for Housing and Civil Construction to work under conditions of complete economic accountability and self-capitalizing, envisaging stepped up influence by labor collectives on the solution of questions concerning the use of the labor remuneration fund and the funds for social and production development.

The question of assessing the fulfillment of commitments for deliveries of light industry goods was also examined. It was determined that, in the event an association (enterprise) effects shipments of goods directly to the consignee in fulfillment of shipment orders issued by the contract purchaser, the fulfillment of goods delivery obligations under the concluded contracts is calculated according to the contract as a whole rather than according to shipment orders.

Approval was given to procedures for the acceptance for sale at contract prices of goods manufactured at variance with contractual provisions regarding the range of goods, and also of goods with manufacturing faults. This procedure applies to all nonfood consumer goods (excluding perfumery and cosmetic goods and tobacco products) manufactured by production and associations (enterprises) regardless of their departmental subordination.

The "Soyuzvneshttrans" All-Union Foreign Trade Association and its subordinate subdivisions and enterprises were transferred to complete economic accountability (as of April 1987).

At its sessions the commission examined the question of clarifying the procedure for the application of economic sanctions. It was determined that, by way of an exception, the amount of sanctions imposed in respect of nonfulfillment of goods delivery commitments in 1986 will be related to the total value of economic incentives funds and charged proportionately to each fund.

The USSR Gosplan was instructed to examine proposals by ministries and make decisions on charging the sanctions in question for 1986 fully or partially against the total amount of profits of individual enterprises, and union republic Gosplans were instructed to examine similar proposals and make decisions as regards enterprises under the jurisdiction of republic ministries and departments. It was noted, moreover, that the ministries failed to take prompt measures for the unconditional fulfillment of contractual commitments.

DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER ON LABOR TAX, LICENSING

PM131111 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 19, May 87 (Signed to Press 29 Apr 87) p 14

[TASS interview with USSR Deputy Finance Minister V.Ye. Orlov by A. Kuklin, especially for EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA, under the rubric "Individual Labor Activity": "In the Population's Interests. Basic Aspects of the New Tax System" -- no place or date of interview given]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee Politburo has approved proposals elaborated by the government concerning the introduction of amendments to tax legislation in connection with the coming into force of the USSR Law "On Individual Labor Activity" as from 1 May 1987. The role of financial organs in the administration of the law is described by USSR Deputy Finance Minister V.Ye. Orlov.

[Kuklin] The taxation and registration of individual labor activity create conditions to ensure that this activity ceases to be a source of unearned incomes and contributes to expanding the range of services and goods for the population. What are the basic aspects of the new tax system in the area of individual labor activity?

[Orlov] The purpose of the amendments to tax legislation necessitated by the adoption of the Law on Individual Labor Activity is to encourage Soviet citizens' interest in manufacturing consumer goods and supplying services to the population in their free time from their main work. The new legislation creates conditions enabling citizens to earn additional income corresponding with the expenditure of their labor.

A standard minimum non-taxable amount is being introduced for citizens engaged in individual labor activity in the cottage industry and folk handicraft areas, consumer services to the people, and the social and cultural sphere. No tax will be levied provided the annual income earned does not average out at more than R70 a month.

In the event of income not exceeding R3,000 a year (in other words an average of R250 a month), the amount of tax will be the same as that applied when deducting tax from the wages of workers and employees. [paragraph continues]

Incomes between R3,001 and R6,000 will be subject to higher progressive rates, but these rates will be more even than at present (ranging between 20 and 50 percent). Only incomes in excess of R6,000 a year will be taxed at a rate of 65 percent on the amount in excess of this sum.

This will mean, for example, that tax on an income of R3,000 will be R332 or 11.1 percent; according to current rates, tax on incomes of R4,000 is R932, which will be reduced to R532 (13.3 percent of income); the tax on annual incomes of R6,000 will be reduced from R2,182 to R1,332, representing 22.2 percent of income.

[Kuklin] Various cooperatives have been set up in the country recently to produce output and render services. What taxes will be levied on their members?

[Orlov] Members of such cooperatives will be liable to income tax on the income they earn under provisions contained in the existing regulations governing the taxation of workers' and employees' wages.

[Kuklin] Tax advantages existed previously for some categories of the population. Will they be preserved?

[Orlov] The new legislation significantly extends some of the previously existing tax advantages. By way of an example, male rural residents aged 60 and over and female rural residents aged 55 and over, whose farms are not liable to payment of agricultural tax, will not be liable to income tax on incomes earned through any type of individual labor activity. Formerly, citizens who are permanent residents in regions in the Far North and areas falling within the same category were not liable to income tax on any income earned through hunting or cottage industry work, and now this advantage will be extended to income from engaging in any type of individual labor activity.

It is also planned to introduce a more advantageous procedure for the taxation of persons who are not members of any creative unions, in the event of these citizens' selling original works of painting, sculpture, graphics, or other art, or applied art works at exhibition sales especially organized by state, cooperative, and other public organizations. In such instances, tax at a rate not exceeding 13 percent will be withheld from any sums paid to citizens by the organizers of such exhibition sales in respect of any paintings, sculptures, and other works or products sold.

[Kuklin] How will the amount of income liable to tax be determined?

[Orlov] The law introduces changes to the procedure used by financial organs to determine the amount of taxable income earned by citizens engaged in individual labor activity. Henceforth, it is incumbent on any person embarking on individual labor activity to indicate on special declarations issued by financial organs the amount of income they expect to earn by year's end and, at the end of the year, to declare the income actually earned. For this purpose, as provided by the law, they must keep books of accounts covering the income and expenditure related to their activity. At the same time, financial organs retain their former duty to audit and inspect citizens for the purpose of determining the amount of income. Any failure by citizens to file a declaration of income earned and any intentional understatement of income on declarations entails responsibility as provided for by the laws of the USSR and the union republics.

[Kuklin] What is the difference between tax payments by persons engaged in individual labor activity and license payments? What basis is used for the determination of such payments?

[Orlov] In parallel with income tax, the country is introducing a system of license payments by some persons engaged in individual labor activity. The state retains the right to monitor citizens' incomes. There are, however, certain types of activity where monitoring would be difficult -- as, for example, in cases when the activity involves possible travel or in some other cases. Consequently, the union republic councils of ministers have been instructed to determine the types of activity which require licenses and to approve the amount of annual payments in respect of such licenses.

This work has now been completed in most union republics. The determination of the amount of license payments was based on the prevailing average incomes of persons now engaged in individual labor activity, and account was taken of the earnings of workers and employees engaged in similar labor at stage and cooperative enterprises and organizations. License payments will be fixed on the basis of these data and the application of relevant tax rates.

For example, the RSFSR Council of Ministers has set at R470 the license payment to engage in the building, repair, maintenance, and outfitting of homes, summer houses, garages, and other buildings. The payment by those wishing to engage in passenger transportation using their private cars has been set R560 a year. The Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers determined that an amount of R350 will be paid to obtain a license to engage in portrait photography and provide other photographic services to the population, and a sum of R340 a year will be payable in respect of a license for footwear repairs.

[Kuklin] What is the approved procedure for making license payments?

[Orlov] The payment is made on the granting of the license, and the citizen is not liable to payment of income tax. Another important feature is the fact that, if a citizen is given permission to engage in a certain type of activity for a period of less than a whole year, the license payment is calculated according to the number of months during which the citizen will be engaged in this activity.

Provisions similar to those governing income tax envisage that war invalids, persons in similar categories, and some other categories of citizens will not be liable to make license payments; war veterans will pay only one-half of the full license fee.

[Kuklin] Are local financial organs prepared for the coming into force of the USSR Law "On Individual Labor Activity" as from 1 May this year?

[Orlov] The adoption of the new tax legislation and the introduction of license payments in the republics indicate the virtual completion of preparatory work to ensure that the provisions of the Law on Individual Labor Activity are fully applied from the first day of the law's coming into force. All financial organs have been given detailed instructions on the application of the new tax legislation. Extensive and responsible work lies ahead, demanding organization and accuracy. It will be necessary to recalculate the tax liability of those already engaged in individual labor activity, and a huge amount of explanatory work will have to be done with those who will embark on such activity as from 1 May.

We have almost completed the distribution of new forms for registration certificates and licenses to rayons and cities to ensure that citizens can obtain the necessary documents from financial organs immediately following the issue of permits by local ispolkoms or artistic councils.

At the same time, attention must be drawn to the fact that the Law "On Individual Labor Activity" is a long-term legislative act, demanding a creative approach and constant, painstaking work by all ispolkoms, labor, trade, supply, industry, and consumer services organs and the financial and many other organs which are bound to assist the development of diverse individual labor activity and cooperative labor in the interests of increasing the volume of goods and services needed by Soviet people.

MARSHAL KURKOTKIN WRITES VICTORY DAY ARTICLE

PM131611 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 20, May 87 (Signed to Press 7 May 87) p 6

[Article by Hero of the Soviet Union Marshal of the Soviet Union S.K. Kurkotkin, USSR deputy defense minister and chief of the USSR Armed Forces Rear Services: "May 9th -- Victory Day: The Great Cannot Be Forgotten"]

[Text] It is 42 years since that bright day in May when the Soviet people's battle against fascism, unprecedented in scale and ferocity, culminated in victory. Numerous accomplishments have been achieved in the decades since then, but the events of those truly heroic years have not been erased from memory. The great cannot be forgotten.

I am convinced that our descendants in the distant future will still interpret time and again the results and lessons of the war which decided the fate not only of the Soviet Union but also of entire world civilization. It is no accident that the day of victory over fascism is one of the most emotional, most moving, and most memorable of all our holidays. It is the only holiday to evoke joy and bring tears to people's eyes. It is only on 9 May the veterans are not ashamed to shed tears when recalling those who did not live to see the victory.

The Great Patriotic War was a grim trial for the Soviet people and their Armed Forces.

Soviet people courageously engaged in the deadly fight against the aggressor. The country rose as one man to combat fascism. Since that day in June, Soviet people's entire way of life was governed by the slogan raised by the party: "Everything for the front, everything for victory!"

From the very first days of the war, the Communist Party and the Soviet Government were faced with a task of exceptional complexity: To place the country's national economy on a war footing within an extremely brief period of time. This generated the necessity to immediately and fundamentally change the sectorial structure of the national economy, organize war production, and assimilate new technology. The front had an urgent need for aircraft, tanks, ammunition, and other materiel.

Victory Day lay in the very distant future at that time. But the objective advantages inherent in the nature of socialism and the grandiose transformations implemented in the country's economic, social, and cultural spheres during the first 5-year plan periods provided the basis for the routing of the enemy in the hard times of war.

Only the planned socialist economy was capable of purposefully utilizing all resources in the interests of waging war. Entire sectors of the national economy switched to a war footing, and complex and responsible work was done, especially as regards the evacuation of productive forces to the east of the country.

Wartime restructuring occupies a particular place among the grandiose tasks resolved by the people under the party's leadership. The relocation of 1,593 industrial enterprises from the threatened regions can, without any exaggeration, be compared with the most major battles of the Great Patriotic War.

The landmarks of glorious war victories are well known and honored in our country. Glorious pages in the annals of the Soviet Army's heroic deeds were written in the course of the battle near Smolensk, the historic battles near Moscow, on the Volga, and near Kursk, the battle of Stalingrad, and the Korsun-Shevchenkovskiy operation.

The feat by servicemen and working people in the rear is immortal. The country lost 20 million of its sons and daughters. We bow our heads before the memory of those who fell for the socialist motherland's freedom. The war, having become the greatest of all trials, confirmed in reality that it is the people's masses who are the decisive role in history.

The Communist Party became the inspirer and organizer of victory. Party members were at the most difficult sectors of the struggle against the enemy. By means of their personal example and inspiring words they raised the servicemen's combat spirits and led them to victory. In those years, four out of five Communists were either in the forces or at defense industry enterprises.

I personally, together with others, traversed the long path of war. I fought on the Leningrad, Voronezh, and First Ukrainian Fronts. I was political instructor, commissar, and commander of a tank battalion, regiment, and brigade. I met thousands of people along this path. Their work was difficult, their lives had developed in different ways. But they were all united by one desire: To drive the enemy out of the beloved country as soon as possible, to save the motherland from danger. These people, the ordinary and glorious defenders of the fatherland, not only saved their own homeland but also liberated many peoples in Europe and Asia from slavery.

Through my own personal experience, I always felt the unbreakable unity between the front and the rear services. Tanks made by working people in the rear were arriving to equip the units and formations in which I fought. It is perhaps impossible to count the number of lives saved by the famous Urals armor. It is impossible to quantify the enormous gratitude felt by frontline fighters for those who cast steel, cultivated grain, and forged the weapons of victory.

The Soviet Union scored an economic victory during the war. Germany, for which enslaved Europe was actually working, produced more electricity, coal, and steel than the USSR throughout the war. But thanks to the advantages of the planned socialist economy and the people's labor heroism, the Soviet Union surpassed the level of Germany's military-industrial output.

The lessons of the Great Patriotic War are of abiding importance. The main lesson is that the struggle against war must be waged before it has started. United, coordinated, and energetic actions by all peace-loving forces are needed against imperialism's aggressive course.

Forces operating against detente and disarmament and whipping up tension in relations between states are still active in the capitalist world today.

The bosses of the U.S. military-industrial complex are striving to disrupt the military-strategic parity come what may, and to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union through SDI. The Pentagon spends colossal amounts of money on the development [razrabotka] of strike offensive weapons. The U.S. military budget increases each year. For example, the military department requested 312 billion for 1988 and \$332.4 billion for 1989. The entire military program for the 1988-92 5-year period will demand the appropriation of \$1.7 trillion.

"The contemporary complex international situation," the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum noted, "and the desire of bellicose U.S. imperialist circles to disrupt the military-strategic parity and achieve nuclear superiority, demand the fastest possible buildup of economic potential, the utmost strengthening of our country's defense capacity, the maintenance of the country's defense capability at the proper level, high standards of training and combat readiness in the Armed Forces, and constant vigilance."

Thanks to the party's concern and the efforts of the entire people, the Soviet Armed Forces are developing with due consideration for the international situation and in line with the level achieved in scientific and technical progress. They are supplied with first-class weapons and combat equipment.

Feeling legitimately proud of the powerful weapons we possess, Soviet servicemen pay due tribute to the workers, designers, engineers, and technicians whose minds and hands have created the most modern missiles, tanks, ships, aircraft....

There are thousands of lasting bonds linking the people and the army. This unity is manifest everywhere. Reliably protecting the country against aggressors, the Armed Forces participate in the solution of particular national economic tasks. Servicemen help bring in the harvest, erect massive housing complexes, and participate in eliminating the consequences of natural disasters and accidents. Many servicemen, for example, distinguished themselves during the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl AES accident.

Regular service in the ranks of the Armed Forces represents a comparatively brief period in young people's lives, but the importance of this period is great. The qualities acquired during the years of service remain with servicemen of the reserve throughout their lives.

Servicemen in all categories of troops are persistently improving their knowledge and skills on the tactical exercise fields, airfields, and the open seas and oceans. In their united combat ranks, servicemen in the missile and motorized rifle forces, airmen, seamen, and air defense servicemen honorably continue the military feats by frontline soldiers. Servicemen from the units and ships commanded by Officers N. Ulyanov, Yu. Pakhomov, A. Lobkovskiy, V. Nikolayevskiy, and many others are among those distinguished by steady successes.

Important and responsible tasks are being solved by the Rear Services of the Armed Forces, being the connecting link between the country's economy and its Armed Forces. The Rear Services meet the troops' growing needs for everything necessary for the successful solution of all tasks assigned to them.

Soviet servicemen, just like our whole people, celebrate the holiday of victory in a businesslike mood and under the profound effect of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. While solving the tasks of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development, we are fully determined to continue to devote all our energy to the further strengthening of the motherland's economic and defense might.

Happy holiday!



VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT

Contents unchanged

VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY
REPORT

Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY
REPORT; contents include:

International Affairs

Inter-African Affairs

Central Africa

Burundi

Cameroon

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Congo

Equatorial Guinea

Gabon

Rwanda

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Uganda

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Mauritius

Seychelles

Southern Africa

Angola

Botswana

Lesotho

Malawi

Mozambique

Namibia

Republic of South Africa

Reunion

Swaziland

Zambia

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